

Bomb destroys French plane in Chad

PARIS (R) — A bomb hidden in a suitcase destroyed an airliner of the French civilian airline UTA at N'djamena airport in Chad Saturday and 19 people were slightly injured, the French External Relations Ministry said. A spokesman said the explosion in the baggage compartment blasted the DC-8 as it was waiting on the tarmac to take off for Paris with 100 passengers on board. The blast sparked a fire which spread rapidly and totally destroyed the aircraft. The spokesman said nobody had claimed responsibility so far for the attack, but that the French government strongly denounced recourse to such methods. N'djamena's civilian airport acts as a base for French Jaguar and Mirage fighter planes supporting French troops sent to Chad last year to help the government of President Hissene Habre against Libyan-backed rebels. The spokesman said none of the military aircraft were damaged in the attack.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جورديان تايمز مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية "الرأي"

Rabat appeals for Gulf ceasefire

RABAT (R) — King Hassan of Morocco, current chairman of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), called on Iran and Iraq Saturday to stop their war and negotiate under the auspices of the organisation. "The world cannot continue to watch as spectators this immense genocide which is striking hundreds of thousands of innocents. Vigorous action must be undertaken to put an end to the reign of madness and folly," the king said. In his appeal sent to Tehran and Baghdad, the king said it would be an honour for Morocco to welcome leaders from Iran and Iraq for talks with the Islamic peace committee set up by the OIC to mediate in the Gulf war. The OIC has failed in repeated efforts to persuade Iran, which demands the overthrow of the Iraqi government and hundreds of billions of dollars in war "reparations", to go to the negotiating table.

See stories related to Gulf war on page 2

Volume 9 Number 2512

AMMAN, SUNDAY MARCH 11, 1984, JUMADA THANI 9, 1404

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

PLF factions clash in Baalbek

BAALBEK (R) — A Palestinian commando was killed Friday and two were injured in a clash between rival factions in the east Lebanese town of Baalbek, residents said. "They said fighting broke out between two groups of the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF), a small organisation led by Talaat Yacoub. Dissidents opposed to Mr. Yacoub attacked his office in a Palestinian refugee camp in Baalbek. One of the guards at the PLF office was killed and two commandos, one from each side, injured, the residents said. A number of cars were burnt.

Andreotti begins Khartoum talks

KHARTOUM (R) — Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti and Sudan's Foreign Minister Mohammad Mirghani Mubarak Saturday discussed Middle East, African and international issues, the official Sudanese News Agency SUNA reported. It quoted Mr. Mubarak as saying their views were identical on issues of mutual concern, the Palestinian question, Lebanon, Chad and the Gulf war.

Top Kremlin aide arrives in Syria

DAMASCUS (AP) — Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Gennadiy Gerasimov arrived here Saturday at the invitation of the Syrian government. Mr. Gerasimov was met at the airport by Syrian Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam. The Soviet official is to hold talks with Syrian leaders on bilateral issues and the situation in Lebanon and the Middle East. Mr. Gerasimov was due here last month but his visit was postponed because of the death of Soviet leader Yuri Andropov.

Pakistan gets 6 more F-16s

ISLAMABAD (R) — Another batch of six advanced F-16 fighter planes supplied by the United States arrived in Pakistan Saturday raising the number of such planes to 12, an official statement said. The planes are part of a total of 40 F-16s which the U.S. has promised to sell to Pakistan under a \$3.2 billion military and economic aid package. Pakistan received the first batch of six F-16s in January last year.

Irish Protestant marchers attacked

LONDON (AP) — Police and spectators had to drive for cover Saturday when gunmen opened fire on a Protestant march in Londonderry, Northern Ireland's second-largest city, authorities said. Police said a dozen shots were fired near the city centre from the Roman Catholic Bogside district. Two officers returned fire. Police spokesman said there were no immediate reports of injuries. The parade was to protest a British government decision allowing Londonderry City Council to change its name to Derry City Council, a move opposed by the city's Protestant leaders.

Arafat meets Hussein, Li

By Salameh B. Ne'matt and Lamis K. Andoni
Jordan Times staff reporters

AMMAN — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat arrived here Saturday and held separate meetings with His Majesty King Hussein and Chinese President Li Xiannian, currently on a six-day state visit to Jordan.

In a statement he gave on arrival at Amman airport, Mr. Arafat said his visit is "a continuation of the latest talks" he held with King Hussein at the end of February. The visit comes as "the application of what we agreed upon to develop our common action on all levels and our co-ordination to act together," he said.

Mr. Arafat said the first round of discussions between him and King Hussein and between Jordanian and Palestinian delegations was examined and evaluated during a two-day meeting in Tunis of the Central Committee of Fateh, the mainstream commando movement in the PLO. Mr. Arafat arrived from Tunis accompanied by his political adviser Khaled Al Hassan.

In his meeting with Mr. Arafat Saturday, President Li told the Palestinian leader that China continues to support the PLO in its struggle. China has frequently expressed its support for the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, Mr. Li pointed out.

Mr. Arafat responded warmly to President Li's support statement and said: "A friend in need is a friend indeed."

"You have suffered many wars and came a long way," the Chinese president told Mr. Arafat, who replied: "There are still many fights ahead."

"A good horse is the one that tolerates long distances," President Li added.

Upon receiving Mr. Arafat at the Guest Palace, President Li embraced the Palestinian leader and told him that he has not changed since his first visit to Peking in 1964. Both leaders later discussed Middle East and Palestinian issues.

Kuwait raps U.S. attitude towards arms for Jordan

KUWAIT (AP) — The Kuwaiti ambassador to Washington was quoted Saturday as criticising U.S. plans to arm a so-called Jordanian "rapid deployment force" for the defence of the Gulf region.

Sheikh Saud Nasser Al Sabah told the newspaper Al Watan that Washington has been "employing absurd justifications to arm a Jordanian rapid deployment force."

He said that the purported justification of "defending the Gulf is rejected."

The paper said that the Reagan administration was telling Congress that arming the 8,000-strong Jordanian force was necessary to defend the oil-producing Gulf region.

cussed Middle East and Palestinian issues. Political analysts said the meeting was a political boost for Mr. Arafat in his current conflict with rebels challenging his leadership of the PLO.

Later in the day, King Hussein received Mr. Arafat at Al Nadwa Palace and resumed talks on joint political moves for a Palestinian solution. Mr. Arafat's current visit is the second in 10 days after the resumption of the talks.

A joint communique issued on March 1 after five days of talks between the King and Mr. Arafat affirmed the intention of both sides to continue discussions on a joint strategy for a Palestinian settlement.

Mr. Arafat told the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, he would discuss with the King joint Jordan-PLO moves during his current three-day visit. But PLO officials said further talks on co-ordinating a joint approach towards the Middle East and the Palestinian problem might be delayed until after Mr. Arafat meets Saudi Arabia's King Fahd in Riyadh on Tuesday.

In a speech at a banquet hosted by King Hussein Thursday, President Li, who is the first Chinese head of state to visit Jordan, voiced sympathy for the sufferings of the Palestinians and supported the Arab struggle to regain usurped land and rights.

President Li attacked Israel and criticised the United States indirectly for not recognising the legitimate rights of the Palestinians, and called for Israel's withdrawal from Arab lands occupied since 1967. China does not have any diplomatic ties with Israel.



Chinese President Li Xiannian gestures to His Majesty King Hussein during a visit he made to the Dead Sea Saturday accompanied by His Royal Highness

Crown Prince Hassan, Her Highness Princess Sarvath and senior Jordanian officials (Petra photo)

Chinese leader briefed on projects in Jordan Valley

JORDAN VALLEY (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein and Chinese President Li Xiannian Saturday attended a luncheon held near the Dead Sea hosted in their honour by Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Lt.-Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker. The two leaders heard a briefing on the development of the Armed Forces and their duties and activities.

The luncheon was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Her Highness Princess Sarvath, Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, Army Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Fahd Abu Taleb and senior army officers. Earlier, the Chinese president was accompanied by Prince Hassan on a tour of the Jordan Valley region. During the tour, Prince Hassan briefed Mr. Li and the accompanying delegation on development projects in the region.

He also spoke about the challenges which Jordan has to face and the economic and social consequences of Israel's ill practices which aim at evicting Arab people from their land to build settlements in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) President Munther Haddadin presented a briefing to the Chinese leader on plans for developing the Jordan Valley since 1959, especially in the agricultural field.

Dr. Haddadin also presented a token gift to the Chinese president to commemorate his visit to the Jordan Valley. Later, Prince Hassan accompanied the Chinese president, his wife and the accompanying delegation to a model farm and visited the Unknown Soldier's Monument set up to commemorate the martyrs of the 1968 Karameh Battle.

The Chinese president, his wife and Their Majesties King Hussein and Princess Sarvath attended a banquet held Friday evening at Amra hotel in Amman by Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat and his wife. The banquet was attended by Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath as well as senior officials and

the Chinese delegation.

Official talks

Also on Friday, official Jordanian and Chinese talks continued at the Prime Ministry. The talks, headed by Mr. 'Obeidat and Chinese Vice Premier of the State Council Tian Jiyun dealt with cementing Jordanian-Chinese economic and trade co-operation, and exports of Jordanian potash, phosphates and chemical fertilisers to China as well as ways of bolstering cultural ties. The two sides also reviewed steps towards operating flights between Peking and Amman.

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Lebanese leaders head for peace conference amid renewed violence

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Artillery blasts and sporadic gunfire echoed through Beirut Saturday as Lebanese leaders left here and Damascus for their reconciliation talks in Switzerland.

At mid-afternoon, efforts were under way to arrange a ceasefire in the southern suburbs of the capital to end shelling barrages which broke out when a Lebanese army officer was killed by a sniper in the Shiyan area.

Fighting that intensified Friday afternoon along the "green line" that divides mainly Muslim west Beirut from the mostly Christian east side continued through the night and onto Saturday, at times involving neighbourhoods all along the four kilometre length of the front.

Police said five people were killed and 30 injured in the clashes overnight and Saturday.

Lebanese President Amin Gemayel called Syrian President Hafez Al Assad by telephone and "exchanged views on efforts to close Lebanese ranks," the state-run Beirut Radio said.

Mr. Gemayel later left Lebanon on a private plane for Geneva, Switzerland, where he was to spend the night before heading Sunday to the conference site in Lausanne, Switzerland, according to palace officials who asked that their names not be used, the Associated Press said.

Prime Minister Shafiq Al Wazzan, who was with Mr. Gemayel during his telephone conversation with Mr. Assad, told reporters afterwards: "We hope the reconciliation dialogue in Lausanne will put an end to Lebanon's agonies and provide a new start for a better life."

The two right-wing Christian

leaders invited to the conference, ex-President Camille Chamoun and Falangist Party chief Pierre Gemayel, father of President Gemayel, left for Lausanne via Cyprus, Falangist radio reported.

Opposition leaders left Damascus on a special flight to Lausanne after consultations in the Syrian capital.

They were Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader Walid Junblatt, Shi'ite "Amal" chief Nabih Berri and ex-Premier Rashid Karame. Ex-President Suleiman Franjeh, who earlier had talks with President Hafez Assad, was due to follow later.

Mr. Berri said before leaving Damascus: "I am not optimistic over the results of the Lausanne (Continued on page 3)

Lebanese factions to negotiate with most of their forces intact, page 4

Fateh approves Jordan-PLO accord on talks

By Lamis K. Andoni and Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times staff reporters

AMMAN — The leadership of Fateh, the largest commando group within the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), has approved a basic Jordan-PLO agreement to continue dialogue on formulating joint strategy in efforts to solve the Palestinian problem, a senior PLO official said Saturday.

Khaled Al Hassan, a top political advisor to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, told the Jordan Times that "the Central Committee of Fateh has approved and highly estimated the joint Palestinian-Jordanian statement (of March 1, 1984) on future co-operation and joint political moves."

The joint statement issued here last week said that both sides have agreed to continue talks on joint political moves to canvass international support for the Palestinian cause and to work towards the implementation of an Arab peace plan adopted in Morocco in September 1982.

Last year, the joint talks founded when the Fateh Central Committee vetoed a draft agreement reached by His Majesty King Hussein and Mr. Arafat. But during last week's talks the sensitive issues of representation and peace initiatives were not raised and the emphasis was on points on

which both sides have identical views.

Mr. Hassan, who arrived from Tunis Saturday with Mr. Arafat, said the Fateh Central Committee has discussed last week's talks and expressed satisfaction with their results.

He said the committee meeting, held in Tunis earlier this week, focussed on organisational issues such as the preparation for a Fateh congress expected to be held in Algiers soon. He gave no date for the convening of the Fateh congress.

Palestinian sources have said the Jordan Times that the Fateh congress will be held prior to a Palestine National Council (PNC) meeting so that the commando movement can submit a unified and clear strategy to the council. But Mr. Hassan said that the timing of the Fateh congress bears no significance to the PNC session.

The PNC, the Palestine parliament-in-exile, was suppressed to convene last February but was delayed due to failure of reconciliation efforts between Fateh and other Palestinian factions in the PLO which opposed Mr. Arafat's visit to Cairo last December.

Mr. Hassan said that a "last" round of deliberations between Fateh and Nayef Hawatmeh, leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine

(Continued on page 3)

Jordan goes to polls tomorrow

By Afifah A. Kakoti
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanians go to the polls tomorrow, Monday, to elect deputies to fill eight vacant seats in the Lower House of Parliament representing the East Bank.

All government departments and public institutions will be closed Monday to allow all citizens to take part in the by-elections, according to an official communique issued by the Prime Ministry Saturday.

Citizens are expected Monday to cast their votes to fill the eight East Bank seats, vacant at present as a result of death over the past 10 years.

The last elections were held in 1967 to elect deputies for a parliament which was suspended in 1974.

The total number of candidates for the parliamentary by-election in all the constituencies in the East Bank is 102 of which 36 nominees are in the Amman Governorate, 16 in Irbid, 27 in Balqa, 18 in Karak and four in the special district of Tafleeh.

The total number reached 116 before nominations were closed Feb. 20 after five days of registration.

Thirteen nominees withdrew

their candidacies in various governorates except for Tafleeh where none withdrew.

Each voter will be requested to present an identification card, either issued by the Civil Registration Department, or by the General Passports Department before being allowed to cast his or her vote.

The total number of registered voters, both male and female, in various governorates is 558,581, of which 237,624 are in Amman Governorate, 145,436 in Irbid, 93,729 in Balqa, 64,412 in Karak and 17,380 in Tafleeh.

The total number of ballot boxes is 375 in Amman, 207 in Irbid, 127 in Balqa, 90 in Karak and 95 in Tafleeh, according to election officials. Each box will take only 500 to 1,000 ballot papers.

The list of candidates for each constituency will be displayed at a prominent place in the voting booths.

Arar warns violators

Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Suleiman Arar Saturday expressed hope that the election process will be conducted in

(Continued on page 3)

Election campaigns focus on occupation, democracy and economy

Jordanians go to the polls on Monday to elect eight members for the vacant East Bank seats in the Lower House of Parliament. This is the first of two articles on the issues raised by individual candidates in their election campaigns. The second article will appear in tomorrow's Jordan Times.

By Lamis K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

THE liberation of Israeli occupied Arab land, the enhancement of democratic freedoms, the development of national industries and agriculture have been the focus of most of the election programmes of the candidates competing for the vacant seat representing Amman in the Lower House of Parliament.

Rejection of what they call "capitulatory settlements" for the Palestinian questions and calls for the strengthening of the Jordanian Armed Forces have been two important slogans that are raised by many of the candidates who touched upon political issues. It was noted, however, that a number

of candidates, especially among those represent big clans and belong to the older generation, evaded political issues and based their election campaign on "readiness to serve the citizens."

Mr. Mifteh Al Lawzi is considered one of the stronger candidates who belong to the last category. Mr. Lawzi, a 57-year-old landowner, says he was motivated by a "feeling of responsibility to serve the people."

He does not believe in what he refers to as "unattainable slogans" that some candidates raise.

Yet other candidates running for the Amman area disagree on the basis that there are no slogans but rather "principles" that will define their position towards any question raised in the Lower



Mifteh Al Lawzi

House. But, Mr. Lawzi says that he believes that "the Palestinian issue is the central cause of Arabs and Muslims, and he expresses hope that "God will enable the Arab Nation to bear the responsibility of restoring the occupied Arab



Leith Eshbeilat

land." "Our dignity will be regained only if we liberate the occupied Arab land which we hope to, under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein," he says. Mr. Lawzi perceives his role as a member of the Lower House is to



Fares Al Nabulsi

keep up with the daily problems of the people and to be able to convey it as their elected representative. He draws on a long 14-year experience serving as the mayor of Al Jbeila (a district in the Amman Governorate) and his membership for two consecutive

terms at the National Consultative Council (NCC).

The NCC was established in 1978 as a temporary replacement for the Lower House and dissolved last January upon the restoration of the Lower House. Members of the NCC were appointed by the government and it did not have the full power of a legislative body.

Mr. Leith Eshbeilat and Mr. Fares Al Nabulsi, who are also considered two of the strongest candidates in the Amman area, unveiled their campaign on comprehensive election programmes reflecting distinct political lines.

Mr. Eshbeilat's programme is based on Islamic principles and a directed towards establishing "a society that is aware of the threats it faces." During his term as NCC member, Mr. Eshbeilat usually did not direct his criticism towards any specific policies per se but attacked its underlying philosophy. He also indicated that government

policies were not consistent with "the state of war that Jordan is passing through." During the discussion of 1984 budget at the NCC last year, Mr. Eshbeilat asked: "What is the use of building economic achievements if we cannot defend it?"

Thus, according to Mr. Eshbeilat's election programme, "the society should be turned into a military apparatus to defend Jordan against the Israeli threat."

The programme of Mr. Nabulsi, a 37-year old lawyer, is directed towards "enhancing and developing Jordan's economic, social, political and military capabilities to counter the Israeli threat."

Mr. Nabulsi, however, adopts a rather secular and internationalist approach and stresses solidarity with "the national liberation movements in the world."

The Palestinian question is considered by both Mr. Eshbeilat and

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U.S. panel says Iranian attack will probably fail

WASHINGTON (R) — Iran has mustered three-quarters of a million troops, including women and boys, for a decisive stroke against Iraq but it will probably fail, according to a panel of U.S. strategists.

Whatever the outcome, it is unlikely that the superpowers would intervene or the world be plunged into a new oil crisis, they said at a news conference sponsored by the private Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) on Friday.

The team conceded that it was working in the dark to a great extent, lacking detailed knowledge of damage suffered by both sides in the 42-month-old war and their remaining capabilities.

One panelist said most experts in Washington believed that after the new Iranian offensive the war would drag on much as before.

Shireen Hunter, a former Iranian diplomat now on the CSIS staff, said some 700,000 to 800,000 Iranians, including women and teenage boys, had

been massed for a three-pronged assault aimed at breaking the stalemate in the long war of attrition.

Panel members said they believed Iran had decided to strike now because Iraq had strengthened its economic and military positions in the past year and further improvements were likely in the next 12 months.

They said Iraq had increased its oil exports from 800,000 to 900,000 barrels a day through Turkey and further outlets were planned through Jordan and Saudi Arabia. Fresh arms supplies had been secured from the Soviet Union and France.

"Iran knows this, and this offensive is Iran's chance to catch Iraq before things get better," said Thomas McNaughton, a security analyst with the private Brookings

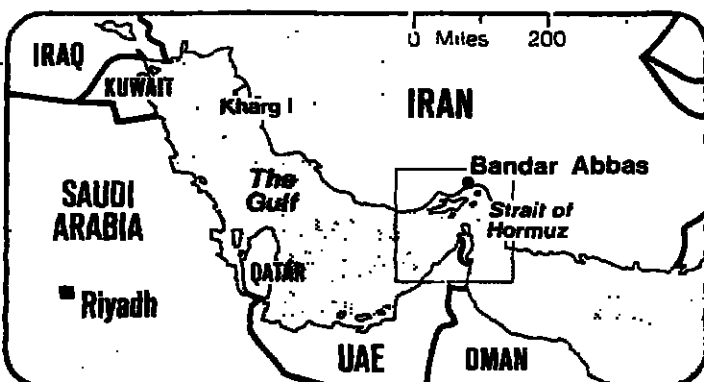
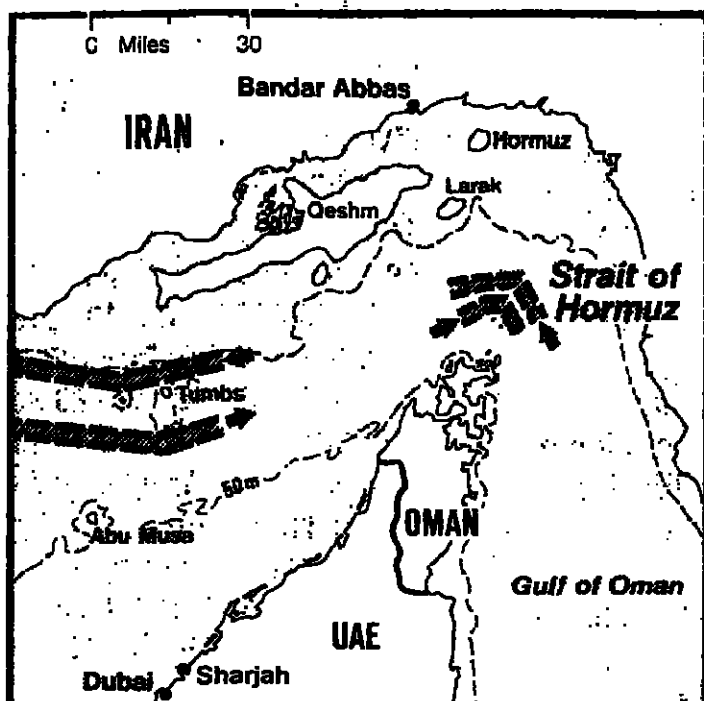
Institution. But he said there was a 60 per cent probability Iraq would halt the onslaught after an "enormous amount of bloodshed" and there would be no fundamental change in the war.

"Iraq's advantage in defensive positions, artillery, armour and perhaps air power face Iran's boy and man power, this former being used in human wave attacks to weaken Iraq," former Pentagon planner Marlan Ullman said.

The panel members said they believed the United States and its allies could ensure a free flow of oil through the Gulf if Iran tried to choke it off.

If there were a short-term disruption, demand could be met by increased production by Libya, Nigeria, Venezuela and Mexico, Miss Hunter said, adding that world oil stocks were good.

"One would not see a panic (but) there is a danger of complacency," the former Iranian diplomat said.



Israel arrests more than 60 Arabs in Gaza Strip

AMMAN (Petra) — More than sixty Arab citizens from the occupied Gaza Strip have been arrested as part of a large campaign of arrests carried out by the Israeli occupation authorities.

People who are below thirty years of age have been banned from crossing the River Jordan to the East Bank, Jordan News Agency, Petra quoted people arriving from the occupied West Bank as saying.

According to Petra, this measure comes in the aftermath of an explosion which took place Wednesday in an Israeli bus in the Israeli port of Ashdod.

Meanwhile the former Mayor of Nabluh Bassam Al Shaka'a rejected Israel's unjust conditions under which the Israeli authorities

will allow him to go to the United States for medical treatment.

The Israelis Thursday informed Mr. Shaka'a that he can go to the United States once he undertakes not to meet with any Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) member or deliver any speeches wherein he attacks Israel or visit any Arab country.

Israel had earlier asked Mr. Shaka'a to leave Israel via Lod Airport, a condition which he rejected and described as humiliating, Petra added.

The Jordanian Government has banned all West Bankers from leaving the occupied territories except through Prince Mohammad and King Hussein Bridges.

Egyptian premier opens international trade fair

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — Prime Minister Fuad Mubarek Sunday opened Cairo's 17th Annual International Trade Fair with Exhibition from 35 countries, including Israel.

Fair officials said a total of 1,224 foreign and 121 Egyptian firms were represented at the various national pavilions.

The American pavilion, one of the largest, displayed building and construction materials, agricultural and irrigation equipment, electric power machinery and agrobusiness, food-processing and packaging equipment.

The pavilion also included a special exhibit by the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID) on aspects of Egyptian-American economic cooperation. Egypt has been receiving \$750 million annually in U.S. economic aid in recent years.

The Israeli pavilion featured products from 30 companies, including agricultural machinery, electronic equipment, textiles and shoes.

Israeli Trade and Industry Minister Gideon Patt was among several foreign cabinet ministers invited to the fair opening.

Threat to oil supplies doubted despite resurgence in Gulf war

By David Mason
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The resurgence in fighting between Iran and Iraq has focused new attention on possibilities that the 3½-year-old conflict may lead to an interruption of oil supplies from the Gulf.

But opinions among Western governments and intelligence analysts vary over what course the struggle may take.

With the war lately spreading to attacks on ships, oil consumers are concerned about the Strait of Hormuz, at the lower end of the Gulf, which is the gateway for 20 per cent of the world's oil.

Iranian President Ali Khamenei said Friday that if Iraq used force to force Iran to export oil or if foreign powers intervene to support Iraq, then "we shall not allow others to use the strait either."

Progress of the war, which began in 1980 has been difficult to follow because access to combat zones by Western military attaches and journalists has been sharply restricted. Communications from Tehran and Baghdad, if taken at face value, would probably add up to the destruction already of both sides' military potential.

But clearly the costs of the conflict have been immense.

The international committee of the Red Cross in Geneva, in a rare public criticism of governments, last month said both Iran and Iraq are endangering "the life and freedom of tens of thousands of victims" and flouting "the fundamental principles of international humanitarian law."

Col. Jonathan Alford of the International Institute for Strategic Studies said that if Iraq used force to force Iran to export oil or if foreign powers intervene to support Iraq, then "we shall not allow others to use the strait either."

ernational Institute for Strategic Studies said that if Iraq used force to force Iran to export oil or if foreign powers intervene to support Iraq, then "we shall not allow others to use the strait either."

Mr. Alford and other analysts also feel that Iran would hesitate to close the strait — if it physically could — for fear of opening the way for the United States and Britain to move in. The United States has 30 ships in the Indian Ocean, with a carrier battle group cruising in the northern Arabian Sea. Britain has two warships on patrol in the general area.

But other opinion has it that

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Iran, spurred by religious and revolutionary fervor, would try to block the strait regardless of the consequences.

A new flurry of concern came last Monday when Iraq announced its planes had attacked tankers anchored near Iran's main oil export terminal at Kharg Island. Iran denied that there was an attack.

Last week, Iraq claimed it sank seven Iranian ships in the Gulf as part of its "blockade" of Kharg Island.

The war began with a major Iraqi attack to reclaim the Shatt Al Arab waterway, long disputed with Iran. There has since been sporadic fighting.

The International Institute for Strategic Studies, an independent research organisation on problems of international security and conflict, has estimated Iran's total armed forces as of last July at up to 2 million men, including

paramilitary forces. Iraq's forces were estimated at about 517,000. Iranian Air Force was believed to include about 70 serviceable combat planes, while Iraq had 330 planes plus about 60 combat helicopters.

U.K. denies supplying arms

Iran's navy, left by the free-spending Shah, included an estimated 20,000 men and three destroyers, while Iraq's navy was estimated at 4,000 men, with far less equipment.

Britain is believed to be supplying spare parts for Iran's British-made Chieftain tanks and some aircraft spares. But John Goulden, chief British Foreign Office spokesman, strongly denies Britain is supplying "lethal weapons."

France has supplied Iraq with about \$5 billion worth of arms over the past three years, and last fall leased to Iraq five Super-Éclair attack planes with Exocet missiles, which apparently have not been used.

It is unclear whether the Soviet Union, a major arms supplier for Iraq in the past, is providing new equipment or spares, military analysts say.

Experts agree that casualties have been very heavy, and thousands of prisoners have been taken. A year-old British estimate said there had been "at least 75,000 dead." A British official, speaking privately last week, said the number had "gone well into six figures."

There are frequent reports of the use of child soldiers by Iran, and Western military specialists generally agree this is so.

Turkey welcomes Greek decision not to withdraw ambassador

ANKARA (R) — Turkey Saturday welcomed a decision by Greece not to withdraw its ambassador from Ankara as the crisis over allegations by Athens that Turkish ships fired on a Greek destroyer, in the Aegean Sea on Thursday subsided.

Greece eased tension between the two NATO alliance neighbours Friday night by saying it accepted that Turkey did not intend to provoke a dangerous incident and it would therefore not withdraw its envoy.

Turkey had earlier denied that its ships, engaged in aerial gunnery practice on a routine naval exercise in Turkish and international waters, had fired on Greek vessels near the island of Samothrace or posed any threat to them.

"Greece's correct re-evaluation of the case... is accepted as a positive attitude," a senior Foreign Ministry official told Reuters.

He said no more official statements were planned on the issue, underlining the apparent desire by both sides to let tension over the incident dissolve.

The brief crisis marked one of the worst episodes in Greek-Turkish relations, already severely strained by disputes over Cyprus, rights in the Aegean and other issues.

Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu said Friday the incident was the gravest provocation by Turkey since it invaded Cyprus in 1974 after a Greek-backed coup on the island.

Later, a Greek spokesman, while saying Greece stood by its first account, said the shells involved were fired into the air by anti-aircraft guns and only fragments fell into the sea.

A Turkish government statement Friday said anti-aircraft fire could in no way endanger ships and accused Greece of trying to create an "artificial crisis."

Although informed sources said Turkish forces were briefly placed on alert, Prime Minister Turgut Ozal said he still wanted friendship with Greece and no special cabinet meeting was held on the incident.

Political analysts said Ankara wanted to appear aloof from what it saw as over-reaction by Greece, while seeking to avoid a major

clash. They added that although Turkey could claim its position was vindicated, it showed no signs of gloating.

Even the Turkish press, never shy of lambasting Greece when the opportunity arises, was relatively subdued except for a few sharp criticisms of Mr. Papandreu.

"Greece falls into line," ran a banner headline in the mass circulation daily Hürriyet, typifying press reaction.

In Athens critics of Greece's Socialist government raised doubts Saturday about its handling of the crisis with Turkey over the incident last Thursday.

While supporters of Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu hailed the easing of tension as a Greek victory, critics said he should not have acted so quickly to raise the alarm only to defuse the crisis 24 hours later.

Conservative opposition leader Evangelos Averoff, while pledging support for the government in any national danger, said the government may have been influenced by domestic factors in its handling of the situation.

GCC ministers start talks in Riyadh

RIYADH (R) — Foreign Ministers of the six member-countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) began two days of talks in Riyadh Saturday against the backdrop of a threatened new flare-up in the Iraq-Iran war.

Officials said the 41-month-old conflict, together with the security of their oil-rich region, are expected to dominate discussions by the ministers from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Oman, Bahrain and Qatar.

The Gulf Arab states support Iraq in the war, injecting billions of dollars into its war-beleaguered economy.

In an opening speech, Qatar's minister of state for foreign affairs, Sheikh Ahmad Ibn Seif Al Thani, called on Iran to respond to peace initiatives aimed at ending the costly conflict.

Sheikh Ahmad said the six states were concerned about the escalation in fighting and urged Iran to respond to peace initiatives.

Iraq has made repeated calls for peace talks but Iran still demands a return to pre-war borders, billions of dollars in reparations and the fall of the Iraqi government.

Kuwait's foreign minister, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, told reporters before leaving for Riyadh that the six Arab Gulf nations were prepared to resume their mediation in the war.

Past efforts at mediation by Kuwait, closest to the war's frontlines, and the UAE have ended in failure.

Sheikh Sabah, also deputy premier, said the security of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz was "not only the affair of the Gulf states but concerns the whole world."

Iran has repeatedly threatened to close the 24-mile wide passage if Iraq disrupts its oil shipments.

A sixth of the non-Communist oil shipments pass through the narrow waterway at the mouth of the Gulf and American, French and British warships are stationed nearby to secure Western interests should the strait be closed.

Riyadh supports Iraqi call for meeting

RIYADH (R) — Saudi Arabia supports a call by Iraq for an Arab League foreign ministers' meeting in Baghdad next Tuesday to discuss the Gulf war, the official Saudi Press Agency said Saturday.

Iraq called for the special meeting to discuss latest developments in the Iran-Iraq war after a major Iranian offensive launched last month.

The call followed a visit to Baghdad by Arab League Secretary-General Chadli Klibi.

The Saudi agency said Saudi Arabia's Arab League representative Taber Radwan had already informed the general secretariat of his country's approval of the proposed meeting.

Other countries which have endorsed the meeting include Jordan, Djibouti, Tunisia, Bahrain, Sudan, North Yemen, Oman and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

In Kuwait, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al Sabah told reporters his country welcomed the Iraqi request and hoped the projected meeting would lead to a realignment of the Arab World and bring peace to the area.

The Kuwaiti News Agency said Sheikh Sabah made the statement before leaving for a meeting in Riyadh Saturday of foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Tunisia denies shift in attitude on Sahara conflict

RABAT (R) — Tunisia Friday denied that it had changed its attitude towards the Western Sahara conflict and had joined Algeria in putting pressure on Morocco.

In a statement published by the Moroccan News Agency MAP, the Tunisian embassy quoted extracts from a joint communiqué issued this week in Tunis after talks between the ruling Tunisian Socialist Destour Party (SDP) and

the ruling Algerian FLN party. The embassy said the SDP and FLN had appealed for a solution to the Western Sahara question on the basis of Organisation of African Unity (OAU) resolutions adopted by the U.N. General Assembly.

The Tunisian statement was made after Ahmad Alaoui, Moroccan minister of state without portfolio, wrote in a pro-

government newspaper Friday that the Tunisian SDP had espoused Algerian arguments in favour of the Polisario Front, which is fighting Morocco for the independence of the Western Sahara.

King Hassan of Morocco has urged the chairman of the OAU to set aside "vain controversies" and arrange a ceasefire and referendum in the Western Sahara.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL

16:30 Koran
16:45 Cartoons
17:25 Children's Programmes
18:30 Circus
19:20 Programme Review
19:30 Local Programme
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic Series
21:50 Local Series
22:15 Arabic Series
23:10 News Summary

FOREIGN CHANNEL

17:30 French Programme
19:00 News in French
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Three's Company
21:00 Documentary: The Oriel Hall
21:10 Ben Sella
22:00 News in English
22:15 Wicked Women

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & partly on 9560 KHz, SW

07:30 Light Music
07:50 Evening News
08:00 Morning Show
10:00 News Summary
10:05 Morning Show
11:00 News Summary
12:00 Pop Session
12:05 Pop Session
13:00 News Summary
14:00 News Bulletin
14:10 Instrumentals
14:30 News Summary
15:00 Jazz Hour
15:30 Date with a Star
20:00 Evening Show
21:55 News Summary
22:30 Evening Show
23:00 News Summary
23:05 Evening Show
24:00 News Headlines

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1413 KHz

06:00 Newsweek 06:30 The Back Family
06:45 Financial Review 06:55 Reflections 07:00 World News 07:05 British Press Review 07:15 Letterbox 07:30 Short Takes 07:45 Letter from America 08:00 Newsweek 08:30 The Arabing 09:00 World News 09:05 News About Britain 09:15 From Our Own Correspondent 09:30 The Seven Deadly Sins 10:00 Recording of the Week 10:45 World News 10:55 World News 11:00 The Pleasure's Yours 11:00 World News 11:05 British Press Review 11:15 Science in Action 11:45 Sports Review 12:15 Classical Record Review 12:30 Religious Service 13:00 World News 13:05 News About Britain 13:15 Letter from America 13:30 Baker's Half 14:00 News in Arabic 14:05 Alastair Kinner's Rhythm and Blues 15:00 World News 15:05 Commentary 15:15 Good Books 15:30 Billy Budd 16:45 The Saudi Jones Request Show 16:50 The Doctors 17:00 Radio Newsweek 17:15 Concert Hall 18:00 World News 18:05 Commentary 18:15 From our own Correspondent 18:35 Financial Review 18:45 Letter from America 19:00 World News 19:05 Meridian 19:40 Reflections 19:45 Sports Round-up 20:00 Newsweek 20:30 Pop The Question 21:00 After Hours 21:15 Radio Theatre: A New Life in a New World 22:00 World News 22:05 Commentary 22:25 Letterbox 22:30 Sunday Hall Hour 23:00 I Know It Here Somewhere 23:15 The Pleasure's Yours 24:00 World News 24:05 Science in Action 06:00 Reflections 06:45 Sports Round-up 07:00 World News 07:05 Commentary 07:15 The Friday Murder

VOICE OF AMERICA

NW 1260, KHz: 7200, 8365, 11740, 11925 & 13210

06:00 VOA Morning News on the hour: news summaries; daily business reports; science and medicine; sports reports; VOA editorial and world and U.S. opinion roundups; documentary analysis; features 17:00 News 17:10 News Horizons and New Products 17:30 Special English News and Features 18:00 News 18:10 International Viewpoints 18:30 Music USA Standards 19:00 News 19:10 Critic's Choice 19:30 Special English News and Features 20:00 News

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

"Turkish handicrafts, paintings, copper ware and glass ware exhibition at the San Rook Hotel.
"Multiple" an Italian exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre at 6:00 p.m.
"Photos" by Samer Tabbara at the Alia Art Gallery at 5:00 p.m.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267
American Centre Tel. 44371
American Centre Library Tel. 41320
British Council Tel. 36147-8
French Cultural Centre Tel. 37009
Goethe Institute Tel. 41993
Soviet Cultural Centre Tel. 44203
Spanish Cultural Centre Tel. 24049
Turkish Cultural Centre Tel. 39777
Haya Arts Centre Tel. 665195
Hussein Youth City Tel. 667181
Y.W.C.A. Tel. 41793
Y.W.M.C.A. Tel. 664251
Amman Municipal Library Tel. 36111
University of Jordan Library Tel. 843555

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Friday and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculpture by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Mu. azah, Jabal Lweibdeh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 30128.
Martyrs' Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.
Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 37169.

AMMAN AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alia information department at the Queen Alia International Airport, Tel. (06) 53252, 53070, 53082, 53171, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

07:05 Cairo (MS)
07:15 Amman (RJ)
07:25 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
07:30 Damascus (RJ)
07:35 Jeddah (RJ)
07:45 Doha, Kuwait (RJ)
07:55 Cairo (RJ)
08:40 Doha, Riyadh (SV)
14:30 Tripoli, Larnaca (LJ)
14:40 Kuwait (LJ)
14:50 Cairo (RJ)
15:30 Jeddah (SV)
17:00 Brussels, Frankfurt (RJ)
17:15 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:35 Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ)
17:45 London, Paris (RJ)
18:00 Madrid, Rome (RJ)
18:40 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
18:50 Zurich, Beirut, Damascus (SR)
20:05 Cairo (MS)
20:20 Athens (OA)
20:40 London (BA)
21:00 Damascus (RJ)
21:05 Cairo (MS)
21:40 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
21:45 Baghdad (RJ)
22:00 Cairo (MS)
22:05 Baghdad (RJ)
22:05 Cairo (MS)

DEPARTURES

06:45 Cairo (RJ)
07:00 Amman (RJ)
07:10 Damascus, Paris (AF)
07:25 Cairo (MS)
11:00 Vienna, New York (RJ)
11:10 Cairo (RJ)
11:25 Riyadh, Doha (SV)
12:30 Larnaca, Tripoli (LJ)
13:40 Kuwait (RJ)
14:30 Jeddah (SV)
14:40 Doha, Kuwait (RJ)
14:50 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
15:45 Damascus (RJ)
15:50 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
20:15 Baghdad (RJ)
20:30 Cairo (RJ)
21:05 Cairo (MS)
21:45 Dubai, Mascot (RJ)
21:40 Baghdad, London (BA)
18:49 Bangkok (RJ)
22:00 Cairo (MS)
00:05 Cairo (MS)

PRAYER TIMES

04:28 Fajr
05:51 (Sunrise) Shuruq
11:47 Dhuhr
15:49 Asr
17:41 Maghrib
19:04 Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

AMMAN AIRPORT

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ARRIVALS

07:05 Cairo (MS)
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14:30 Tripoli, Larnaca (LJ)
14:40 Kuwait (LJ)
14:50 Cairo (RJ)
15:30 Jeddah (SV)
17:00 Brussels, Frankfurt (RJ)
17:15 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:35 Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ)
17:45 London, Paris (RJ)
18:00 Madrid, Rome (RJ)
18:40 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
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DEPARTURES

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15:45 Damascus (RJ)
15:50 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
20:15 Baghdad (RJ)
20:30 Cairo (RJ)
21:05 Cairo (MS)
21:45 Dubai, Mascot (RJ)
21:40 Baghdad, London (BA)
18:49 Bangkok (RJ)
22:00 Cairo (MS)
00:05 Cairo (MS)

MARITIME TRAFFIC

Regular-line ships docking at Aqaba port on 10/3/1984:

— Romack
— Yam
— Peris
— Taid
— Petra
— Nikolay Gogol

\$40m World Bank loan to finance school building

WASHINGTON (Petra) — The World Bank has granted Jordan \$40 million to finance the Ministry of Education's sixth project for schools and vocational centres in the country.

The loan agreement was signed at the World Bank here by Jordan's ambassador to the U.S. Ibrahim Izzeddin, and the bank's acting vice-president for European, Middle East and North African affairs.

The loan will help the ministry expand elementary and secondary education in various governorates by building 47 new schools and establishing 48 school laboratories, 49 school libraries, and 50 workshops in schools in all the regions of the country.

Profile of Chinese visitors

President Li

Li Xianmin, 75, was born to a poor peasant family of Hongnan County, Hubei Province, central China, in 1909. Starting as a carpenter's apprentice at the age of 11 and joining the revolution as a peasant association cadre member. At 17, he completed the journey from a poor peasant boy to head of state during a long and almost legendary lifetime full of hardships and difficulties.

Li Xianmin joined the Communist Party of China in 1927, serving as a district and later a county leader. He took part in China's famous "long march" during 1934 and 1935 and was political commissar of the 30th army in the Red Fourth Front Army.

He was a guerrilla leader in central China during the war of resistance against Japan (1937-1945) and served as commander of the central plains military area during the war of liberation (1946-1949). General Li was known far and wide among people in this part of the country.

After the People's Republic of China was founded in October 1949, he became secretary of the Hubei Provincial Party Committee and chairman of the provincial people's government. Later, he went into financial work and became one of the most respected economic experts among Chinese leaders.

After 1954, he served as vice-premier of the State Council and concurrently minister of finance. He was elected president of the People's Republic of China at the first session of the Sixth National People's Congress in June 1983. He is now a standing committee member of the Political Bureau of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee.

President Li, as a state leader, has led delegations to many countries in Asia, Africa, Europe, and Oceania such as Pakistan, Tanzania, Zambia, Albania, Australia and New Zealand.

Madame Lin

Madame Lin Jiamai, who is married to President Li, is a native of Shanghai and was born in 1924. Having graduated from Tong de Medical College in 1948, she served as a paediatrician and later as a member of the State Family Planning Commission. She is now the director of the Department of Health Care for Women and Children at the Ministry of Public Health, a deputy to the Sixth National People's Congress and a member of the Executive Committee of the Fifth National Women's Congress of China.

Tian Jiyun

Tian Jiyun, 55, is an economist specialising in financial matters, and is the youngest member of China's state leadership. He was appointed vice-premier at the Sixth National People's Congress in June 1983. He is also secretary-general of the State Council.

Before joining the State Council, Mr. Tian served as head of the Department of Finance in Sichuan, China's most populous province. In 1978 he helped Zhao Ziyang, then provincial party secretary of Sichuan, restructure the province's economic framework.

As vice-premier in charge of finance, commerce and trade, Mr. Tian's most important task is overseeing the restructuring of China's economic system.

He and his colleagues are currently studying new ways of managing the national economy by basing decisions on economic returns rather than on administrative convenience. Mr. Tian himself has proposed a number of reforms on the basis of serious investigation.

Tian Jiyun was born in 1929, the son of a revolutionary cadre member in Shandong. He began to work at the age of 11 in a factory in the liberated area of that province and joined the local people's resistance to Japanese aggression.

He had been engaged in financial work since 1947. He joined the Communist Party of China in 1945 and was elected a member of the central committee at the 12th National Congress of the party in 1982.

Noor leaves on U.S. visit

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor left for the United States Friday night on a two-week tour of a number of American cities.

The Queen will make speeches at the World Affairs Council and the Arab Women's Council meetings in these cities in addition to a number of cultural centres.

The Queen was seen off at the airport by His Majesty King Hussein, Their Highnesses Princess Sarvath and Princess Alia, Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qasbi, Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid the chief chamberlain and Information Minister Laila Sharaf and U.S. Ambassador in Amman Richard Viets.

Photography show opens

AMMAN (J.T.) — An exhibition of photography by Samir Tabba'a opened Saturday at the Alia Art Gallery.

Present at the opening ceremony were the Italian and Turkish ambassadors in Amman Marquis Fabrizio Longhi and Rashad Arem, and the wife of the U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Richard Viets as well as Prince Assem, son of the late Prince Nayef, and a group of artists, photographers and journalists in Jordan.

The exhibition will remain open until March 18.

Samir Tabba'a is famous for his sculptures, and has held a one-man show at the Jordan National Gallery. Among his better known works are two large reliefs in marble and bronze executed for the King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh.

SSC team returns home

AMMAN (Petra) — A Social Security Corporation (SSC) delegation, led by its Director-General Farhi Obeid, returned to Amman Saturday at the end of a 12-day tour that took its members to Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, and Kuwait.

During the visit, the delegation met Jordanian expatriates employed in these three countries as well as Jordanian labour attaches and Jordanian ambassadors to explain a plan to include the expatriates in the social security scheme on a voluntary basis.

The delegation also explained Jordan's investment policies and the way in which SSC funds are invested in Jordanian development projects, especially housing schemes.

The idea of including the expatriates in the SSC schemes was welcomed by Jordanians working abroad who also expressed their appreciation and gratitude towards the government's favourable response to their request to be included in the SSC provisions.



Lower House of Parliament Speaker Akef Al Fayed (second from right) gives a press conference prior to his departure Saturday for the Afro-Arab talks in Tunis (Petra photo)

Abdul Jaber seeks to extend trade with Iraq

BAGHDAD (Petra) — Labour Minister Tayseer Abdul Jaber met here Saturday with Iraqi Trade Minister Hassan Ali to discuss ways of promoting Jordanian-Iraqi co-operation in trade and economic affairs.

Steps aimed at establishing a joint Jordanian-Iraqi company for industry and increasing the volume of trade exchanged between Jordan and Iraq were the main points to come up at the meeting.

The two ministers also discussed topics on the agenda of the Arab labour conference being held in Baghdad.

Talks on the establishment of a

joint company for industry will be continued in Amman shortly. Dr. Abdul Jaber was quoted as saying after the meeting.

Earlier, Dr. Abdul Jaber attended another session of the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO) conference, which was attended by Arab labour ministers and representatives of labour federations and business and factory owners in the Arab World.

Talks at the meetings centred on developing the Arab Labour Organisation's system and a report on the conditions of Arab labourers and labour unions under Israeli occupation rule.

Delegations gather for conference

TUNIS (Petra) — A Jordanian delegation arrived here Saturday to take part in a meeting of the Arab Maritime Transport Academy board of directors which opens Monday.

The two-day meeting will discuss a number of topics which will include means of supporting the academy's activities and the training of students.

The Jordanian delegation is led by the Jordan Ports Corporation acting director-general, Mardhi Qatamin.

Agricultural engineers' council election postponed owing to lack of quorum

By Anne Counsell
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The elections for the Association of Agricultural Engineers' Council will be held on March 23 as the quorum was not present at a meeting held at the Professional Associations' Complex Friday, according to Samir Hababna, the current vice-president of the Association of Agricultural Engineers.

The meeting Friday was supposed to elect the association's council for the tenth session and to discuss the annual and financial reports of the association which will now also take place on March 23 and which will be considered legal on this date, whatever the number of engineers present.

Mr. Hababna told the Jordan Times that the list of candidates are not yet completed and that nominations will be accepted up to the day of the elections.

Mr. Hababna said that the total number of agricultural engineers registered with the association is 1986, but that the majority of these are currently working in

Saudi Arabia, the Gulf area or the West Bank and will therefore not be participating in the elections. It is expected that between 600 and 700 engineers are eligible to participate in the meeting, he said.

Candidates

To date 13 candidates have declared themselves as running for the seven seats standing both in blocks and as individuals.

The first group consists of the following candidates: Mr. Tareq Al Tal, Mr. Issam Nasr, Mr. Abdul Majid Abu Rumman, Mr. Mustapha Jarrah, Mr. Fuad Salameh, Mr. Karim Kana'an and Dr. Mohamammed Samir Hababna.

In the second block are the following candidates: Mr. Akef Al

Zubi, Mr. Khaled Al Ato'ut, Mr. Basil Al Rimawi, Mr. Abdul Rahman Ghathit, Mr. Azzam Al Tal, and Mr. Natheem Abu Al Rub.

Candidates for the position of president of the association are: Mr. Tareq Al Tal; Dr. Mohamammed Ali Al Loubani; Dr. Salem Al Lawzi, and Mr. Abdul Rahman Al Najjab with Mr. Farouq Sharaybah; Mr. Issam Nasr; Mr. Ali Masa'adeh; Mr. Thabet Gheith, and Mr. Mazen Abdul Qader contending for the vice-presidency.

Results of the elections are expected on Saturday March 24 and the positions of president and vice-president are held for a two-year term.

Italian sculptures: An exhibition of craftsmanship

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

Classically modern forms

AMMAN — In the most pleasant exhibition space in Amman — the circular "Blue Room" at the Royal Cultural Centre — this week is a large display of small sculptures by 29 contemporary Italian artists. Predominantly cast in bronze, these objects alternately seem to hug themselves with a smooth shiny satisfaction or reach upwards opening out to reveal interiors faced with delicate patterns as intricate and as simple as those nature weaves for herself. But whatever form these sculptures take, they are all flanked by a craftsmanship and finish that is undeniably professional.

Many of the sculptures tend to follow classically modern forms which is typified by Carlo Ramous' slick, sensuously dynamic curves and by the fluid shapes of Giacomo Benevelli which rise and fall like wavelets of solid bronze.

In an attempt to break-away from this "truth to materials" approach other sculptors have tried to manipulate the metal, turning it into medallions chased with a web of interweaving lines (Lino Tene, Pietro de Laurentis) or into less abstract and more literal forms like Giancarlo Marchese's alien landscapes and Franco Zazzeri's "genesis" series which follow the

never ending cycle of rebirth and degeneration, using the egg as his motif.

Rippling plexiglass

In order to achieve something really new and original, some of the artists found it necessary to explore and exploit facets of other materials and the different relationships they form when combined with one another. The most successful of these must be the piece by Giorgio Zennaro called "Developing Sequences". This rippling plexiglass structure rises like a rush of cool water sparkling in the sun, its effervescent vitality stilled, it seems, only for a moment in time. The clear lines of its form and its elegant transparency makes it a piece you would like to live with.

A less dramatic combination, but perhaps a more aesthetic one can be seen in the work of Giancarlo Sangregorio. Here wood and stone are fused together in a series of echoing shapes, the darkness of the wood against the white sheen of the marble plays with the senses so that you think it is the denser material of the two.

Unfortunately only running for six days, this exhibition closes on March 12.

Candidates focus on various national issues

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Nabulsi, to be the central issue in the Middle East conflict. They vehemently oppose "any capitulatory settlement for the Palestinian question, especially U.S. President Ronald Reagan's peace initiative for the Middle East."

The Reagan peace proposal, announced in September 1982, calls for a withdrawal of Israeli troops from the Arab territories occupied since 1967, a freeze of Israeli settlements and for Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in association with Jordan. Jordan sees in the Reagan plan positive elements because it has the mechanism of implementation. His Majesty King Hussein recently said that the Reagan initiative "is frozen" due to American failure to effect a withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon and a freeze on Israeli settlements.

Rejection of the Reagan plan by the two candidates, however, reflects different political approaches. While Mr. Eshebeilat does not believe in the concept and possibility of retaining the Arab land through peaceful means, Mr. Nabulsi says that all means including peaceful means should be used to liberate the occupied Arab land but without dropping armed struggle.

According to Mr. Nabulsi the only acceptable peaceful settlement is that which includes a total withdrawal of Israeli troops from territories occupied in 1967, the establishment of an independent Palestinian state and the implementation of all inalienable Palestinian rights in accordance with all United Nations resolutions concerning the issue.

"The offered peace initiatives, such as the Reagan plan and the present balance of power do not

provide for a just and comprehensive peace," says Mr. Nabulsi.

Mr. Eshebeilat believes that armed struggle is the only way to liberate Palestine because "Israel does not want peace."

Both Mr. Nabulsi, who is originally from the city of East Bank town of Salt and Mr. Eshebeilat from the East Bank town of Tafila, express strong support for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Mr. Nabulsi, who has never occupied a public post before, endorses the establishment of an independent state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Mr. Eshebeilat does not accept a solution that does not lead to the liberation of all Palestine including the Arab lands occupied in 1948 and this, according to him, can be achieved only through "military means."

Mr. Eshebeilat says policies should be based on mobilisation of all capabilities towards the struggle for the liberation of the occupied Arab territories and defending Jordan.

Mr. Nabulsi and Mr. Eshebeilat agree on two important points. Both demand more democratic freedoms, and call for policies geared towards establishing a productive economy instead of a consuming one.

Mr. Eshebeilat, who is an ex-president of the Jordan Engineers Association, believes that "a citizen who is deprived of his freedom cannot defend his existence."

Mr. Nabulsi, who has been practising law since his graduation from Cairo in 1970, is more specific in his demand "to emancipate all democratic freedoms." He calls for the freedom of expression, the press and the formation of parties.

Political parties are illegal in Jordan.

Mr. Nabulsi calls the lifting of the martial law and the cancellation of all extraordinary laws. He believes that the judiciary system should be independent and stresses that there should be equality in power sharing between the executive, legislative and judiciary systems.

A developed economy geared towards productivity and the advancing of the agriculture sector is

the second goal shared by both candidates. Mr. Nabulsi, however, endorses egalitarian demands such as securing free higher education, better public services for Palestinian refugee camps and urban areas and a comprehensive social and health security.

Both candidates' programmes include the encouraging of youth in Jordan. Mr. Nabulsi calls for a serious tackling of the problems of youth and women.

Fateh approves accord

(Continued from page 1)

(DPLP) will take place soon in Algiers after which final preparations for the PNC meeting will be made.

Both the DFLP and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), led by George Habash, have condemned Mr. Arafat's visit to Cairo, but Mr. George Habash has called also for the removal of Mr. Arafat from his functions as PLO chairman.

Mr. Hassan said Saturday: "The door is open for the PFLP to attend the Algiers meeting" with Mr. Hawatmech.

Palestinian sources here say they do not expect the PFLP to join the Algiers talks and consequently it will boycott the PNC meeting.

Mr. Hassan said that the PNC will convene next April in Algiers. He confirmed reports that two Palestinian delegations, one representing the PLO Executive Committee and the other the Fateh Central Committee, will visit the Soviet Union in the near future.

"Both Mr. Arafat, in his capacity as PLO Executive Committee chairman, and the Fateh Central Committee have received

official invitations from the Soviet leadership," he said.

Mr. Hassan said that following his visit to Jordan Mr. Arafat will start a tour which includes Saudi Arabia and North Yemen.

This will be the first visit by Mr. Arafat to Saudi Arabia since his departure, along with 4,000 of his loyalist forces, from north Lebanon last December. "Mr. Arafat has received an official invitation from Saudi Arabia," Mr. Hassan said.

Meanwhile, Palestinian officials told the Jordan Times that a PLO delegation accompanying Mr. Arafat in his current visit to Jordan, which includes PLO Executive Committee member Jamal Sourani and Executive Committee representative in Amman Brigadier Abdul Razak Al Yahya, is expected to meet with Jordanian officials on Sunday.

The PLO officials also said that Mr. Arafat is expected to leave for Saudi Arabia on Monday. They added that the PLO chairman might visit Holland in response to an invitation from the Dutch Parliament prior to his return to Tunis to continue with the Fateh Central Committee meetings.

Fayez heads team to Arab-African dialogue in Tunis

TUNIS (Petra) — A Jordanian parliamentary delegation arrived here Saturday to take part in an Afro-Arab dialogue due to start Monday.

The delegation, which is being led by Lower House of Parliament Speaker Akef Al Fayed, will be joined by delegates from 26 Arab and African countries in three days of meetings devoted to a discussion of the scopes of co-ordination and co-operation between the Arab and African parliamentary unions.

Discussions will also focus on economic, political and cultural issues including the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Iraq-Iran war and South Africa's policies of racial discrimination.

In a statement made upon his arrival, Mr. Fayez said that he was

carrying a message from His Majesty King Hussein to President Bourguiba of Tunisia and one from His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan to Tunisian Prime Minister Mohammad Mzali.

Prior to the start of the Afro-Arab meeting, the Arab group will hold a separate meeting Sunday to co-ordinate the Arab countries' position vis-a-vis the various issues to be discussed.

Mr. Fayez is being accompanied by Upper House member Walid Salah and Lower House members Khaled Al Haj Hassan and Ribhi Mustafa as well as two senior parliamentary officials.

Larger phosphate exports dominate Asian tour talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Increasing Jordan's phosphate exports to six Asian nations was the main topic discussed by a Jordanian delegation and officials from these nations.

The delegation, which comprised Amman Mayor Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh and Jordan Phosphates Mines Company Deputy Director Abdullah Nsour, held the talks in Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines, South Korea, Japan and Hong Kong.

According to Mr. Rawabdeh, the tour was successful and achieved its purpose.

The mayor, who returned to Amman Saturday, said that, apart from discussing the possibility of increasing phosphates exports, the delegation discussed issues pertaining to the Amman Development Corporation and the organisation of cities, and in particular co-operation between these Amman Municipality and these countries' capitals.

Meeting discusses trends in technical education

AMMAN (Petra) — A 12-day symposium on modern trends in technical education, opened in Amman Saturday. Taking part in the symposium, which was organised by the Arab Union of Technical Education in co-operation with the Ministry of Education, are specialists from six Arab states.

The participants will discuss ways of developing skills and employing various methodologies in technical training by employing audio visual aids, and will have an opportunity to strengthen their co-operation in technical affairs. Addressing the opening session, Minister of Education Hikmat Al

Saket outlined the importance of the symposium and referred to the role of teachers and instructors in the educational process.

The instructor plays a basic role in the educational process and possesses the power to create and develop methods to cope with modern trends in education, the minister said.

Also addressing the opening session was Mr. Hisham Abdul Wahhab, secretary-general of the Arab Union of Technical Education, who said that technical education in the Arab World faces the problem of adequate preparation and developing training methods.

Leaders head for Lausanne

(Continued from page 1)

conference because there is the (right-wing Christian) Lebanese Front which wants to partition Lebanon into cantons."

He and Mr. Karami denounced cantonisation. Some leaders of the Christian front headed by Mr. Chamoun and Pierre Gemayel have come out in favour of the idea since the Lausanne conference was summoned.

"We are for the unity of Lebanon and reject partition into cantons," Mr. Karami declared in Damascus.

Mr. Chamoun and Mr. Gemayel have made clear they will not consider major constitutional changes that the opposition lea-

ders are expected to demand at Lausanne.

The day-long clashes in Beirut as the rival leaders headed for Switzerland were the second successive day of heavy fighting in the capital accompanied by shelling of residential areas since Mr. Gemayel announced the conference on Tuesday.

St. Michael's Church, where Saturday's fighting began, was the starting point for last month's battles and subsequent militia victories that forced Mr. Gemayel to abrogate a troop withdrawal agreement with Israel and summon the peace talks.

Right-wing Falangist radio said many Christian districts were also being shelled Saturday.

Jordan goes to polls tomorrow

(Continued from page 1)

an orderly and secure manner.

In a statement given to the Jordan Times and Al Ra'i, Mr. Arar warned against any malpractices in the balloting process, and said strictest measures will be taken against those found violating the election laws.

Mr. Arar added that local election committees, comprising of members of the judiciary, will supervise the election process.

Election booths will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and the maximum extension beyond this period will be two hours, the deputy prime minister said. The extension of the voting hours will be at the discretion of the election committee, but not beyond two hours, he added.

The counting of the votes will start at the polling booths themselves immediately after the closing of voting hours, Mr. Arar said.

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1983 was not so bad for Jordan's economy

By Fahed Fanek

THE STATISTICS depicting the performance of the Jordanian economy in 1983 are not finalised yet. However, the Central Bank has published its monthly Statistical Bulletin for December 1983, which includes lots of meaningful indicators and indices.

Inflation subsidised further, the cost of living index rose by 5 per cent during 1983, which is the lowest rate in a decade. Prices of food stuffs remained constant, reflecting the depression in the markets of local agricultural products, especially cereals, meats and fruits, the prices of which showed a decline. Prices of drinks and tobacco rose by 29 per cent,

perhaps due to heavier taxes imposed on these items, which come first to the mind whenever the government considers raising duty. It is believed that the total proceeds of taxes on these items may decrease because the too heavy taxes invited smuggling.

Housing costs rose by 6.8 per cent, as rents posted an increase of 8.7 per cent, perhaps because the new law regulating the rigid relations between landlords and tenants, permitted certain increases on the rents contracted before 1975 at pre-inflation rates. Clothing and footwear jumped by 29.2 per cent, which is a strange phenomenon that I cannot

think of reasons or justification for except possible errors in the calculation process or in the reproduction of the reference year 1982. Finally, the cost of other goods and services including transportation, medical care, reading and education rose by 5.8 per cent.

The Amman wholesale price index showed a 4 per cent increase over 1982, which confirms the over-all rise of 5 per cent in the cost of living. However, if we compare the items covered by the two indices, compiled independently, we can point out some discrepancies.

The index number of industrial products showed a slight improvement of 4.9 per cent, the lowest industrial growth in the modern history of Jordan. Many industrial capabilities were underutilised, due to lack of demand after the sudden drop in the Iraqi market.

On the monetary side we note that issued currency increased by 10 per cent. Money supply M. 1 by 10.4 per cent, M. 2 by 10.1 per cent. Gold and foreign exchange reserves increased by 10 per cent. The banking sector net position in foreign assets showed an improvement of some \$46 million, which is not bad in the circumstances, and reversed the wide spread expectation of a deficit in Jordan's foreign exchange net position of the banking system.

Commercial banks continued their runaway expansion at 20 per cent. Deposits grew at 19.5 per cent, and credit facilities by 16.5 per cent.

The rate of exchange of the Jordanian dinar rose during 1983 by 3.2 per cent against the Swiss franc, 5.4 per cent against the sterling pound, 13.1 per cent against the Italian lire and 14.3 per cent against the French franc. However, it eased by 5.7 per cent against the dollar and 6.5 per cent against the yen and of course remained constant against the Special Drawing Rights (SDR).

The balance of payment is not yet ready, but is believed to show a small surplus of between JD five to 17 million.

Overall, 1983 was not a good year, but it was not as bad as feared.

The arms saga

THE Kuwaiti ambassador in Washington, Sheikh Saud Nasser Al Sabah, has made a good point in charging Washington with employing "absurd justifications" to arm the so-called Jordanian Rapid Deployment Force. "The armies of Kuwait and Jordan are practically one army, and if the Jordanian army were needed in Kuwait it would be there in 24 hours," he told the newspaper Al Watan on Saturday. And what more could we in Jordan say to the whole issue of the "RDF"?

For too long the problem has been how to arm ourselves adequately, given Jordan's financial means and resources: It has never been a question of our commitment to defending the Arab Nation, or parts of it, wherever they may be. Our record speaks for itself.

Why Jordan should need the approval of a pro-Israeli lobbying group like the "American-Israel Public Affairs Committee" to win congressional approval for \$200 million in arms to the Kingdom, we do not know. Ask the administration, which is supposed to head a nation with which Jordan has had friendly relations since even before Israel existed; and, better still, ask the Arabs themselves who should, under their national responsibilities, provide whatever help is necessary to safeguard Jordan's total dedication to the Arab cause and the country's stability and security.

One wonders about the ability of a country like the U.S. to make Israel accept the basic conditions of peace, if that superpower can be effectively crippled by a few Zionist pressure groups and Jewish lobbyists on Capitol Hill or in the White House.

Such state of affairs is indeed sad in view of what is happening in the Middle East generally, and it must not be allowed to continue. Election year or not, the U.S. must wake up to the fact that its very interests are at stake in this part of the world and each new mistake is going to be detrimental, if not fatal, to what is left of American prestige and influence.

Reasonable and moderate people too have limits to their patience.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Neutrality unjustifiable

WITH THE approaching date for recommencing Lebanese reconciliation talks in Lausanne, some political and military indicators show that the Falangist militias and their allies, who form the Lebanese Front, have decided to abort the talks or to drive it towards the wall at best.

The political indicators are manifest in several statements made by Falangist leaders. As for military pointers, these appear through the Falangist refusal of Amal's suggestion to open Beirut's airport, the high tension over the green line in Beirut and the fierce fighting in south Beirut.

The Lebanese government cannot claim neutrality vis-a-vis continued attempts at aborting the conference and declared public announcements for the division of Lebanon. The Lebanese government takes its legality from maintaining Lebanon's unity in land and people, in defending it, and in facing up to all attempts at sabotaging national interests.

Plotting to abort the Lebanese national reconciliation talks is a crime towards which there should be no neutrality. This crime requires a firm stance taken against it by the Lebanese government, because defending Lebanon's unity should rise above any other consideration whatsoever.

Al Dustour: A hard and persevering job

AT THE time when preparations are being made for holding the Lebanese national reconciliation talks in Lausanne, it appears that the task of achieving peace in Lebanon is still complex, and that arriving at a political settlement faces many obstacles.

While eyes and minds of the Lebanese and other Arabs are directed towards Switzerland anew, where the second session of reconciliation talks will be held, fierce fighting and battles are raging on all the traditional fronts of this painful war in a way that stirs fears of a possible and more dangerous security crisis which might abort the talks and obstruct arrival at hoped-for results.

We expect that the coming few days will be full of surprises in the Lebanese crisis, and that the forces whose interest might suffer under Lebanese national reconciliation will mean to do all they can to cause frustration of any positive outcome of the talks. This necessitates care and awareness to foil all possible games, and makes it imperative to exert all required efforts for reconciliation until positive ends are met.

Sawt Al Shaab: A Fruitful visit

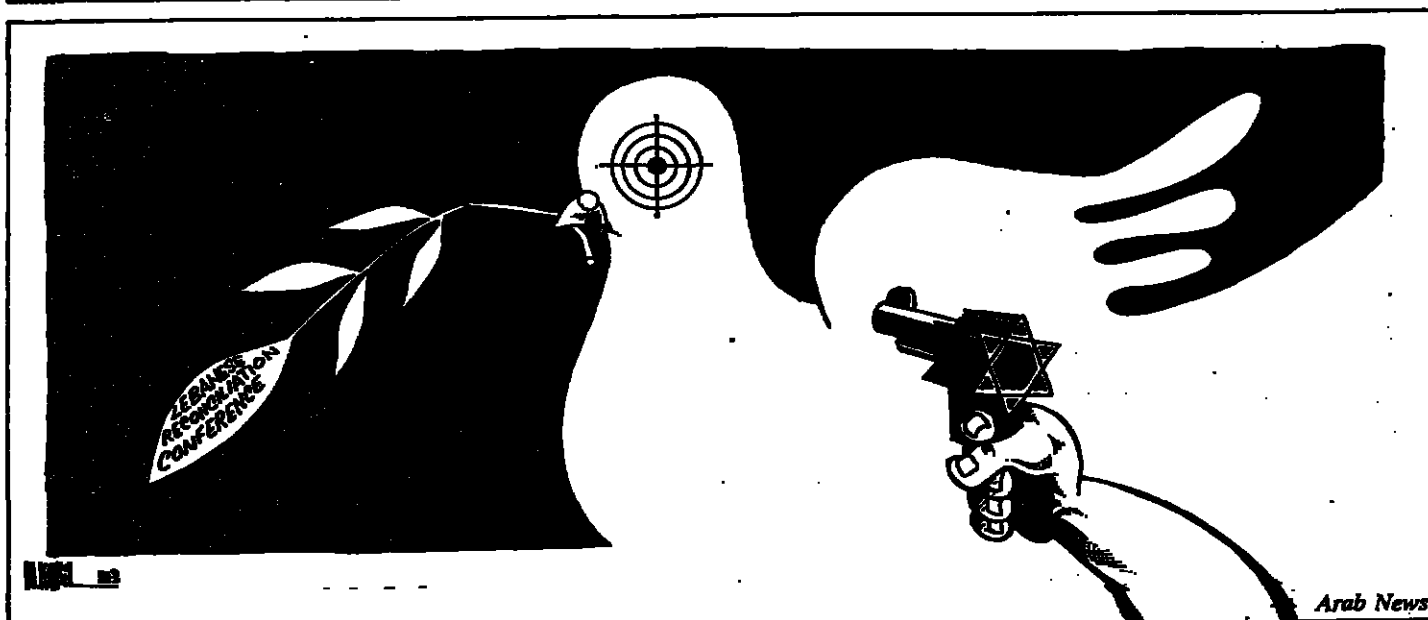
AS WE welcome the Chinese leader in Jordan, we think that his visit to our country represents one of the good fruits of King Hussein's visit to China.

Concentrated efforts in a relatively short time has enabled the two countries to develop friendship and co-operation between the two peoples.

King Hussein in a welcome address praised the historical ties between the ancient Chinese and Arab civilisations and expressed appreciation of China's principled support for Arab and Palestinian rights. The words of the Chinese leader stressed rejection of Israel's expansionist policies and considered everything based on these policies as internationally unacceptable.

Difference in the two countries' social systems, as was pointed out by King Hussein, does not block the way of a meeting in principles and stances over justice and respect for the rights of all peoples of the world.

We value that the first visit to the Middle East by the Chinese leader Li Xiannian has been to our country Jordan. We have much to learn from the great Chinese nation whose modern experience, that carries rich humanitarian principles, was able to make achievements in the life of a giant nation such as China.



Lebanon's warring factions to negotiate with most of their forces intact behind

Reuters

BEIRUT — The Lebanese reconciliation conference in the Swiss city of Lausanne next week mainly concerns an armed struggle limited to the small central part of the country not occupied by Syrian or Israeli troops.

Although politicians from the Syrian-controlled north and the Israeli-occupied south are also taking part, the spotlight will be on warlords who are more independent of foreign forces.

The central conflict, which last month led to the redivision of Beirut into eastern and western sectors, pits the regular army of President Amin Gemayel against a mainly Muslim alliance dominated by the powerful militias of Druze chieftain Walid Junblatt and Shi'ite leader Nabih Berri.

The Muslim alliance is also at war with the right-wing Christian militia "Lebanese Forces" grouping mainly stationed alongside the army in areas north and east of the capital.

The theatre of war stretches from Syrian lines 40 kilometres north of Beirut to Israeli lines 35 kilometres south. Within these limits it includes most of the area between the Mediterranean and the mountain chain which runs parallel to the sea about 25 kilometres inland.

It amounts to less than a fifth of all Lebanese territory but, with Beirut at its centre, it contains perhaps 70 per cent of the country's population.

The armed groups on Mr. Gemayel's side are:

1. The Lebanese army: The army still has a theoretical strength of 37,000 men, though even before the Muslim militia victories of last month many were out of action in isolated garrisons in the South, north and east. Defections, casualties and changes in the battle lines have left Mr. Gemayel with between 10,000 and 15,000 men able and willing to

fight. The U.S.-trained and equipped army is still the most powerful single Lebanese force but its morale was badly shaken last month by its defeat in west Beirut and the hills to the south.

The army controls the eastern Christian, side of the "green line" in Beirut, the area around the Presidential Palace and Defence Ministry in the southeastern suburbs and a salient stretching towards the strategic ridge town of Souq Al-Gharbi, 15 kilometres southeast of the capital. It also has positions in the Christian enclave northeast of Beirut.

The opposition forces oppose the use of the army in internal conflicts and want to see a radical overhaul of its Christian-dominated command structure.

2. The "Lebanese Forces": Founded during the 1975-76 civil war by Bashir Gemayel, the president's assassinated brother. The "Lebanese Forces" brought together the armed strength of the main right-wing Christian factions. The Falangist Party led by the president's father Pierre, has traditionally dominated the militia's policy but under new commander Fadi Frem it has begun to show some degree of political independence.

The militia is the best organised in Lebanon, with conscription, barracks, uniforms and a taxation system to finance it. Its total strength (with reserves) is over 10,000.

Consistently opposed to Syrian influence in Lebanon, the "Lebanese Forces" was the natural ally of Israel. It took advantage of the Israeli invasion in 1982 to expand from its enclave north of Beirut into the mainly Druze Shouf and Alek mountains but suffered a humiliating defeat at the hands of Druze forces when the Israelis withdrew a year later.

The "Lebanese Forces" grouping was not invited to Lausanne but will in effect be represented by Pierre Gemayel and former Pre-

sident Camille Chamoun.

The armed groups fighting Mr. Gemayel are:

1. The mainly-Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), founded by charismatic socialist leader Kamal Junblatt (assassinated in 1977) and now led by his son Walid. The PSP took control of the Shouf and Alek mountains last September and moved into west Beirut with the defeat of the army there last month. An effective community-based structure and substantial logistical support from Syria give the PSP an importance out of proportion with the numerical strength of the Druze community, which accounts for about eight per cent of the population.

The PSP wants to secularise the Lebanese system of government and dismantle the in-built privileges enjoyed by the Maronite Christians, the Druze's rivals for over a century.

Mr. Junblatt accuses Mr. Gemayel of trying to set up a one-party Falangist state in Lebanon and has called for his resignation and trial for "crimes against the Lebanese people".

2. Amal, the Shi'ite militia led by lawyer Nabih Berri. The largest armed representative of Lebanon's largest religious community, Amal has scored some spectacular successes in the last year and looks set to play an important part in the country's politics for some time to come.

A sometimes uneasy alliance between secular westernised Shi'ites and pro-Iranian fundamentalists, the militia controls west Beirut and the heavily populated southern suburbs. It also has an important political presence in South Lebanon, where it has led the opposition to Israeli rule.

Amal's numerical strength gives it a certain confidence and Mr. Berri looks more likely than Mr. Junblatt to compromise with Mr. Gemayel at Lausanne. His

main immediate demand will be for punishment of those responsible for shelling the mainly Shi'ite suburbs in the fighting last month.

Like the PSP, Amal is organised by neighbourhoods. But the relatively low-level of foreign aid means its fighting force relies more on automatic rifles and grenade-launchers than on heavy artillery and armoured vehicles.

3. Minor leftist and Muslim groups, such as the Lebanese Communist Party, the Murabitom (a West Beirut Sunni Muslim group which follows the Arab nationalist ideology of late Egyptian President Gamal Abdul Nasser) and the national Syrian Social Party (a mainly-Christian party which favours an eventual merger between Syria and Lebanon).

Of the other politicians invited to Lausanne, only former President Suleiman Franjeh, a Maronite Christian opposed to Mr. Gemayel, has a fighting force of any credibility.

Mr. Franjeh's Marada militia operates alongside Syrian troops in Lebanon's northern mountain but has not fought a major campaign since the end of the civil war.

Both Syria and Israel allow and encourage friendly local forces to maintain security in their areas, but none of these groups will be represented at Lausanne.

In South Lebanon there is the "Army of Free Lebanon" founded by Major Saad Haddad. Falangist units also operate in the South but have recently received orders to amalgamate with Maj. Haddad's force.

The northern port of Tripoli has a myriad of local militia groups, dominated at present by the Sunni fundamentalist "Islamic Unification Movement" of Sheikh Saeed Shaaban.

In eastern Lebanon, "Islamic Amal", an Iranian-backed splinter-group of Amal, operates with Syrian connivance.

European elections test Greek Socialists

By Neocosmos Tzallas

Reuters

ATHENS — Elections for the European Parliament next June are expected to give Greece's ruling Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK) an important test of its nationwide popularity after more than two years in power.

Politicians of PASOK, the main opposition conservative New Democracy Party (KKE) are now eyeing the European Parliament elections, scheduled for June 17, as the next barometer of Greek public opinion.

New Democracy is hoping for a strong presence in the European Parliament. Since its clear defeat by PASOK in the 1981 national elections, party officials believe support for the ruling Socialists has eroded greatly through what they see as inept economic policies.

The KKE is confident of in-

creasing its share of the electorate, while the Socialists themselves appear to believe that, despite the adverse economic situation, their outspoken, strong-willed and charismatic leader, Andreas Papandreu, will again lead the party to victory.

The lingering economic crisis and controversial foreign policies are targets of criticism against the government.

New Democracy says the Socialists have been unable to curb an inflation rate running at over 20 per cent. It says exports are dwindling, imports rising and businessmen unwilling to invest.

Government officials say the economy has stabilised but agree that a promised period of growth has yet to materialise.

An austere incomes policy has angered civil servants and the salaried class of the private sector, who find the cost of living rising much faster than incomes. New Democracy says voters are des-

erting PASOK, irked by the continued austerity.

Private industry accuses the government of strangling it by removing investment incentives and adding more corporate taxes.

The latest test of PASOK's popularity was in Athens Bar Association elections last week. New Democracy's candidate for its presidency won 39 per cent of votes against 33 by the incumbent, backed by PASOK and the KKE. In the last elections in 1981, the New Democracy candidate won 28 per cent against 65 per cent for the PASOK-KKE candidate.

Mr. Papandreu told members of his parliamentary group after the elections last week that it was a disappointing performance for the party and that the electorate's message should be studied.

New Democracy also criticises the Socialists for creating unnecessary tensions within NATO. Though keeping Greece firmly anchored in NATO and the Eur-

opean Community, Mr. Papandreu has often quarrelled with his Western partners claiming his government has for the first time "a voice of its own".

The conservatives say that even the Arab countries, which he has consistently courted, have given little political or economic backing in return.

Political analysts here say that if Mr. Papandreu fares badly in the forthcoming European elections he may implement radical socialist changes and bring about social reforms during the first half of his term. Parliamentary elections are due to take place in October 1985 at the latest.

The analysts believe Mr. Papandreu may have been tempted to call national elections for the same day as the European Parliamentary elections, to renew PASOK's mandate before public support falls below the safety level.

Children pay for Iranian fanaticism

By Georgie Anne Geyer

BAGHDAD — In an exclusive interview on the very eve of the reported attack on Iran's Kharg Island, Iraqi leader Tarik Aziz hinted broadly that the bloody 42-month-old war was swiftly reaching its final phase.

"We were thinking they might stop after preliminary losses in this recent offensive," the deputy prime minister told me confidently, "but we believe the Iranian regime is prolonging the war because it is afraid that if it stops the war, it has to face all the problems inside Iran that it cannot solve. But that is a very dangerous game. It is like a gambler who gambles to regain what he has lost but reaches the edge of bankruptcy."

When I asked him when and if the Iraqis would use the advanced weaponry they were obviously holding back, such as French Exocet missiles, this cool intellectual of the regime smiled enigmatically.

"We've always used the tactic that we must have some surprises for the enemy," he said. "If you want to win a battle you must have resources to use when the enemy does not expect it. If he knows everything about you, he might manage to surprise you. As a member of the political leadership, I can say only that we have weapons we have not used yet — and that we will use."

In an even more astonishing interview on the night of the reported attack on Kharg Island on Feb. 27, the founder of the ruling Iraqi Baathist Party, Michel Aflaq, spoke to a journalist for the first time in 20 years. The 70-ish, Syrian-born scholar, formally dressed all in navy blue and sitting in his elegant office in the party's building, had another message that the Iraqis want spread: The war has served to strengthen the Iraqi revolution by consolidating the people.

He spoke of the war helping people to "jump historic distances, in such a way that a new Iraq is created — and a new Iraqi citizen — and that it can withstand all the shocks of the future."

From these and other interviews, from observing the situation in Baghdad and from two days of touring the front lines where the original mid-February "decisive" Iranian attacks began near Basra in the south, I can only conclude:

(1) The Iraqis are moving from a position of strength, having stopped the Iranian offensive.

(2) They have chosen this as the moment to try to end the costly and bloody conflict.

(3) That they took the reported spectacular Kharg Island step, which I predicted would occur months ago, in order finally to involve the United States, Western Europe and Japan in the de-escalation of the conflict.

When I last visited Iraq, in December 1980, the war was an obnoxious "bad seed" of three months. It began basically, as Tarik Aziz explained to me then, with ideologically expansionist and fanatic Shi'ite Muslim regime of the Ayatollah Khomeini attempting to spread his revolution to Iraqi Shi'ites, who constitute more than 50 per cent of the population. The Iraqi regime reacted by attacking Iran.

It was touch-and-go then whether the regime, would or could last out this war, which has taken an estimated 500,000 lives.

This year, the mood is totally different. While the Iraqi people unquestionably are war-weary, there is the sense of a turnaround. The world, while not sympathising with the Iraqi regime, is more and more horrified by the grotesque Iranian tactic of sending "human waves" of schoolchildren to face modern Iraqi weapons.

School-children waves EAST OF BASRA — I did not really believe it until I actually came to these front lines. Here, I heard firsthand that the Iraqis were sending "human waves" of very often schoolchildren, to die

by the tens of thousands in this strange war.

I did not really believe it until men such as Zia Hassan, the military correspondent of the Iraqi newspaper Al-Thawra, described to me what he had seen. "They would just march across the desert," he said as we sat in the command headquarters of the region here on the picturesque Shatt Al Arab waterway. "Some came on bicycles and motorcycles. Some came running, as in the 16th century. Some came in the white robes of the dead, shouting 'Allah Akbar'. Most are killed in the non-man's land well before they even reach our front."

In one of the central fighting areas, Mr. Hassan said, he saw children sent into mine fields to clear them. "Teen-agers were gathered there and sent across those fields. I talked with some of the surviving children afterwards. They were 14 and 15, and even 12. They sent old men, too."

More and more of these stories have been emerging. In Washington, an Iranian medical officer and colonel who defected in protest confirmed recently that schoolchildren are brought to the front from the classroom. "Many of them are from peasant families, and they have been promised benefits to their families if they volunteer. In some cases, they have been brainwashed by the mullahs."

This man had witnessed attacks in which the Revolutionary Guards of the Ayatollah Khomeini ordered the youths to take a hill. "At the end, they were just running over bodies."

Tarik Aziz, who as deputy prime minister is one of the most influential leaders of the Iraqi regime, told me in an extensive interview, "they bring the most wretched of their people and push them to the front. With modern warfare, what can they achieve? They are massacred before they hit our lines. We have taken to the war the best of our men — they go out and bring the most illiterate sectors from Iran's illiterate countryside and push them to a modern war. If they stop the war, they have to create a situation in which the masses forget reality."

The reality re-asserts itself on this incredible battlefield. Our small group of journalists travelled for more than an hour through fortification after fortification: Men dug into trenches, tanks, bunkers, great "X" walls, trucks arranged in circles.

The covered wagons of our Western, artillery, then more of everything. By the time we got to the actual battlefield, which was smack in the most remote, ugly and endless gray desert one can imagine, one had to question the sanity of a regime that would attack here, in this tactically impossible place, much less with its children.

But the Iranian "tactic" is to make a great breakthrough in this Iraqi southland, which is mostly Shi'ite, and thus to set the whole Middle East afire with a spontaneous Shi'ite Islamic Revolution.

Part of Mr. Khomeini's strategy, if there really is any, may also be to destroy what is left of the old regular Iranian army of the Shah by sending them ahead with the kids. Gen. Maher Abdul Rashid, the Iraqi commander of the southern region, told me, "I can't be positive of that, but there is a possibility. We have noticed that the army is definitely disintegrating. Effective command is by Khomeini's Revolutionary Guards."

Three years ago when I was researching this strange but prevailing war, a foreign diplomat in Baghdad told me that fighting with Khomeini was like "trying to have a boxing match with a madman." But this war represents more than sheer madness.

Meanwhile, the children keep coming across, those who survive. And when they don't find paradise on the other side? Mr. Hassan describes the ones he saw in the northern battlefields: "they were weeping." — Washington Times.

هكذا من الأمل

Britons seek better bill for divorce aftermath

MONEY is a bigger obstacle to amicable divorce than any other, including custody of children. It will feature strongly when, over the next few weeks, single parents, ex-husbands, second wives and other aggrieved groups tell a House of Commons committee what is wrong with the government's matrimonial and family proceedings bill. The committee should not listen too hard. A noisy tug-of-war will do nothing to make divorce less unpleasant for the steadily increasing numbers of Britons — and their children — who go through it.

It is understandable for now single mothers to fear lest errant ex-husbands be given the chance to shirk off all responsibility for their no-longer-loved ones. It is no less understandable for ex-husbands (and their second wives) to remain unconvinced that the bill does enough to check the "maintenance drones" who, they contend, happily bleed their ex-husbands until death then do part. Firm guidelines, not so-called, are needed to help the courts make sensible decisions.

In the past, legal and ethical assumptions about divorce were clearly reflected in financial settlements. As long as there was a sinner and a sinned-against in every divorce case, the aim was to reward just deserts. In 1969, divorce reform removed the notion of guilt. Instead, divorce was to be regarded as a misfortune for both husband and wife. This principle was reflected also in the guideline the court to follow in making financial settlements: the two parties were to be placed, as far as possible, in the position they would have been in had the marriage not broken down. This was very odd — in effect, "the contract has collapsed, but let's pretend it hasn't". But the aim was right: to give both

people the best possible chance of making of a fresh start.

Unfortunately, this noble aim proved impracticable from the start. The breadwinner (almost always the husband) cannot sensibly be asked to support himself, his ex-wife, his children, and often a second family to boot, out of the same purse which previously kept only one household. The best thing about the new bill is that it removes this unworkable notion from the law. The worst thing is that it does so without establishing any new principle for courts to follow in making financial settlements. Instead, it cobbles together a mixed bag of claims on the court's attention, most of them remnants from existing laws. Any children are to be given "first consideration" but, confusingly, a whole gamut of other issues is to be looked at too, including the income, needs, health, living standards, earning capacity, age, and sometimes the conduct of both husband and wife. At the same time, the court is asked to consider the possibility of a clean financial break. The bill has therefore dodged the central question: should marriage entail lifelong financial commitment or not? Until this question is answered, the courts will remain confused. So will divorced people and their families.

An emotive issue is the question of "conduct". Even after divorce laws were reformed to exclude the idea of guilt, conduct laws were reformed in awarding maintenance. Case law found conduct relevant only when it was "gross and obvious" — as one judge put it, the kind of behaviour that would cause the ordinary mortal to throw up his hands and say, "surely that woman is not going to be given any money." The new bill aims to incorporate the case law into the statute book but, because

some mortals throw up their hands more easily than others, there are fears the new wording could result in airing much dirtier linen, and taken divorce law back to its sordid pre-reform days.

Nice, wouldn't it be, if the law could pretend the marriage never happened? This is impossible when it has produced children. The fact that their welfare has been put first in the new bill deserves a cheer. Why not go further and make it the only consideration, as far as maintenance payments are concerned? Most maintenance claims are already made by women with dependent children. They should not have to submit a separate claim on their own behalf, when a major reason why they cannot support themselves is that they are caring for their children. If it were made clear that a man had no financial ties to his ex-wife, only to his children, maintenance awards for children could be more generous. This would mean more ex-wives seeking social security benefits. But divorce law will never have a clear rationale until it is accepted that, once children's needs are met, the needs of divorced people are not different from those of other single people.

With no maintenance except for dependent children, marriages could be dissolved much like partnerships. In dividing capital and property between the two partners, the court could follow the principle that you get out of the partnership broadly what you put into it — not only in financial terms, but also in any sacrifices or contributions made towards it. This would be open to prolonged legal battles, but tussles over capital and property are not as bad as those over maintenance: they happen only once. — The Economist

Social transformation rules women's rights

By Lamis K. Andoni

A HUNDRED and twenty-seven years have elapsed since the day when women workers in the American garment and textile industry took to the streets of New York in demand for equal rights with men mates. The American authorities sent in mounted police and many women were squashed dead under horses' hooves.

In 1910, an international women's conference in Denmark decided to make the anniversary of this demonstration — March 8 — an international day of solidarity with women all around the world.

There is no doubt that since that demonstration women have made big strides towards achieving rights as full participants in social life, but, nevertheless, the struggle for emancipation still has a long way to go. The gruesome but yet heroic incident March 8th commemorates all but proves that the struggle for women's rights cannot be detached from the economic, social and political reality in which she lives.

Unfortunately, the course many women liberation movements in the West have followed has dwarfed the struggle to emancipate vis-a-vis men instead of struggling against the chauvinist and reactionary values and the social institutions they reflect. That does

not apply, however, to all Western liberation movements, particularly those actively involved in social and international causes of seeking peace and justice.

The struggle to emancipate women is essentially the struggle to emancipate humanity from all values and rules that enslave and dehumanise both men and women. The form of this struggle takes, and its dimensions are defined by the social, economic, cultural and political conditions that differentiate one society from another.

Western prejudice

There is a strong tendency in the West to view the East and Islamic societies as "backward" and "reactionary" regarding the status of women. We do not deny that despite all the achievements, the Arab World has made over the past few decades, we still live in a society where women, in general, still occupy an inferior status, and that where killing of women "for honour" is not yet a totally condemned norm. But, it is historical and unscientific to view ascendancy of Arab men over Arab women to stem from the substance of the Arab World.

Furthermore, it is wrong to think that exploitation of women is exclusive to the East and that

Western women have achieved total emancipation.

It is true that working women of the West through their long tedious and arduous struggle and sacrifices have been able to earn many of their usurped rights, but women in a post-industrial society are still depicted, in commercials and movies, as mere "sex symbols" in which they are reduced to "commodities".

Therefore, the struggle for women's liberation continues all over, but it is mainly a question of the level of economic and social development that differentiates the status of women in different societies.

Centuries of submission

Those who are discreet enough to consider the dynamics of the historical process will admit that the centuries during which the Arab World had succumbed to foreign colonisation have distorted the course of its development. This is no justification for self-generated Arab exploitation of their women by looking up "external factors," but foreign subjugation deprives both men and women (of the subjugated nation) from this rights and dignity. Yet, considering that throughout history, and for reasons that are not the subject of this

article, women have come to occupy an inferior status in human societies. Therefore, women in periods of foreign occupation suffer from double if not triple oppression in the case of those crushed by poverty. Hence, even if foreign domination might act as a "civilising factor" specially to the upper strata of a society, and can transcend "Western" norms to the people under occupation, but the impact remains "superficial" as it is not accompanied by a real reshaping of the infrastructure of such a society.

Many years have passed since the attainment of political independence by most of the Arab countries, except for Palestine, from immediate foreign domination; and the struggle for progress has made considerable strides in which women have taken part in the long tedious drive for change, though not as equal partners.

Nonetheless, this does not negate that women in Jordan are increasingly becoming involved as active participants in the social, economic and even political life of the country (Jordanian women are actually practising their right to vote Monday). Yet, it is becoming clearer that the recognition of women's right to vote in Jordan, important as it is, does not by itself

effect a fundamental change in the position of women in the lower rungs of society. For even their right to vote can practically work against women's interests if they are not free or aware enough to make their own choices.

Overall social process

Abolishing the exploitation of women requires radical changes in social institutions to enable women to participate freely in developing their society. Women's important role in society should be recognised and encouraged by making it accessible for them to increase their awareness alongside with men and women by effectively putting an end to the stereo-type portrayal and orientation of Arab women as well as the female in general.

Women in Jordan as part of a nation that faces a continued Israeli threat and that is burdened by the great responsibility of freeing the occupied Arab territories should be given the opportunity to joint forces with men in the struggle for national liberation.

It is equally true that if women cannot attain their rights, their role in the struggle will be diminished, while women's involvement in the struggle has otherwise proven to be a factor that has relatively advanced women's status in society.

Truckers' strikes reflect European frustration

By John Winn Miller
Associated Press

ROME — The strikes last month by harried drivers and customs officials, which came close to paralysing Western Europe, showed just how far the Common Market has to go to live up to its name.

The truckers — Italian camionisti, British lorry drivers, French routiers, Austrian fernfahrer, German brumms, Danish lastvogns chauffeur and Dutch vrachtwagen chauffeur — had had enough and brought West European transportation to a standstill for more than two weeks. So had some customs officials. Not all of them were angry about the same thing. French and Italian truckers wanted better compensation from their governments. Others wanted an end to what they consider harassment from customs officials.

But most were tired of cumbersome customs procedures for travelling through the 10 European Economic Community countries. The procedures were supposed to have been simplified and made uniform in 1977 under a community-wide agreement.

Trucks are the life's blood of

Europe, carrying the vast majority of all freight moved across the continent — 80 per cent in France and Italy alone.

But for truckers, getting from one point to another can be excruciating. Take an average trucker leaving early Monday from Amsterdam on a 1,100 kilometre trip to Milan, Italy.

A Dutch trucker told the Associated Press that it usually takes only 30 minutes to cross the Dutch border into West Germany. Crossing into Austria can take up to three hours.

By Tuesday morning, the trucker arrives at the Italian border at the Brenner pass.

"That's where Calvary begins," said Italian trucker Gustavo Asper, using the suffering of Jesus on Calvary Hill to get his point across.

"The actual process at customs — checking and stamping documents and registering the vehicle — only takes two or three minutes," he told Turin's La Stampa newspaper.

"The average time for waiting in line lasts 12 to 16 hours," he added. "Sometimes hours pass without a single truck passing through and no one can understand

why." Some European truckers get paid overtime by their companies for the wait or "stationary time" but not in Austria. Plus a large number of truckers are self-employed — 86 per cent in Italy — meaning they lose their own money in customs lines.

While Austria has 176 customs officials to man their side of the pass, Italy only has 30. The Austrians staff six truck lanes, the Italians only three, which are open only 12 hours Monday through Saturday. The same problem is encountered at other border points in Europe.

So the trucker from Amsterdam, finally makes it to Milan by late Tuesday night or Wednesday morning, dumps his load and then starts back.

If he takes an alternate route through France, he faces another problem besides slow customs procedures.

"We never expect to make one trip through France without being stopped by the police and fined for some trumped-up offence, like a dirty headlight," a British truck driver, who asked not to be named, told the AP in Paris. "They cut the fine in half if we don't ask for a receipt."

High Stewart of the British Road Haulage Association said that the fines are all very legal "but it is an irritant because it happens more in France than in other countries."

Finally, the trucker makes it back to Amsterdam on Friday or Saturday — a five to six day round trip — with dozens of different stamped documents, permits and inspection stickers from six border checks.

All of this highlights the EEC inability to bring about uniformity. Various commissions and governing bodies of the EEC have proposed unified customs since 1977 to no avail.

The EEC members couldn't even agree on what to do about the strike. Dutch Transport Minister Neelke Smit-Kroes asked for an emergency meeting of EEC transport ministers, but France, currently chairing the committee, refused.

The reasons for the division are as varied as the countries involved — nationalism, protection of home products and just plain bureaucracy.

"The countries have their vested interests that they protect. So do the British," said Mr. Stewart of the British Road Haulage Association.

But customs officials have complaints of their own about being overworked and underpaid in some times harsh conditions.

In early February, both French and Italian customs officials started protests at the same time and European truckers launched their own strikes.

Europe was trapped in a gridlock of polyglot demands that sometimes had little to do with the customs problems, and the strikers were more in control of their leaders at the hotspots than the national unions were.

Plus there were three competing unions pulling different ways — the Communists one ever condemned the strike.

The French finally ended the strike on Feb. 24 when the government sent representatives to the border points and agreed to pay the truckers an average of 2,000 francs (\$251) each.

On March 1, the Transportation Ministry announced that it agreed to cut value added tax (a form of sales tax) on diesel fuel to help reduce the truckers' expenses.

But in the meantime, Italian border points remained blockaded by both protesting customs officials and truckers.

Florida: A magnet for conmen

By Stewart Russell
Reuters

FORT LAUDERDALE, Florida — Southern Florida with its sunny climate and reputation as a holiday playground is gaining a new and more menacing reputation — as a magnet for conmen.

Prosecutors allege that in the past year or so, well over \$100 million has been milked from thousands of investors by just three firms based in Fort Lauderdale.

There seems to be no single reason why Fort Lauderdale, a resort town just north of Miami, should become a fraud centre, but as one detective said: "Bad guys like sunshine, too."

There's also easy access to offshore banking (in the Caribbean),

easy access to drugs and what some perceive as a lax attitude toward criminal prosecution of white collar crime because of the priority given to violent crime," says a senior official in the state comptroller's office.

Seeking to change that perception, the authorities have moved in the last few months to close more than 40 dubious precious metals firms and telephone sales operations involved mainly in oil and gas lease "scams" or frauds.

In one recent case, hundreds of people sent their savings to a company called the International Gold Bullion Exchange (IGBE) until its two owners fled for bankruptcy last year owing, by various estimates, between \$40 million and

70 million.

The bullion that investors thought was being held for them in IGBE's vaults was nowhere to be found.

Some 600 investors who sent almost \$6 million to another Fort Lauderdale precious metals firm, also now defunct, received a total of \$25,000, \$44 each, in a recent court-ordered share-out of assets.

The rest of the money taken in by Universal Precious Metals Inc. has not been found.

Although there is a popular idea that crooks are attracted by Florida's large number of pensioners trying to augment their income, the local conmen generally go after people in other states to complicate possible prosecution.

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Everton, Watford reach English F.A. Cup semifinals

LONDON (R) — Second half goals by Andy Gray of Everton and Les Taylor and John Barnes of Watford earned the first division clubs a place in the semifinals of the English Football Association (F.A.) Cup Saturday.

Gray's 47th minute effort gave Everton a 2-1 quarter-final win at Notts County and Taylor and Barnes, on target twice in two minutes, enabled Watford to dismiss hosts Birmingham 3-1 in the other all-first division tie.

Second division Derby visited third division Plymouth, arguably the most unlikely club to reach the last eight, and forced a replay on Wednesday via a goalless stalemate.

Sheffield Wednesday play cup favourites Southampton in the remaining tie Sunday.

There was no change in the battle between Liverpool and Manchester United for the League Championship.

Leaders Liverpool recovered from an early goal and beat Tottenham 3-1 while Manchester United, also at home, dismissed Leicester 2-0.

The two clubs remain separated by two points.

Everton, beaten only once in 17 games and already in the League Cup final, put themselves within sight of a second Wembley appearance this season when Gray broke the deadlock by firing home Kevin Sheedy's free kick two minutes after halftime.

Kevin Richardson, given official clearance to play despite a fractured wrist, put Everton ahead

in the fifth minute then John Chidozie equalised for relegation-threatened Notts County 13 minutes later.

Watford, like Birmingham have never won the cup, but Barnes sent them on the way by opening the scoring in the 18th minute.

His team mate Steve Terry put Birmingham back into contention by deflecting a Robert Hopkins cross into his own net in the 60th minute before Taylor and Barnes struck in the 78th and 80th minutes.

Financially-troubled Derby, who face a winding up order in the high court on Monday — the day of the semifinal draw — had sufficient experience to keep out plucky Plymouth, one of the English League's outposts.

Tottenham, without a win at Liverpool since 1912, had the temerity to take a second minute lead through Gary Stevens.

But Kenny Dalglish, playing his first full match since he fractured a cheekbone two months ago, levelled in the 41st minute.

The absence through injury of chief goalscorer Ian Rush was hardly missed as Ronnie Whelan and Sammy Lee put the outcome beyond doubt with goals in the 43rd and 87th minutes.

Leicester ran out of ideas against Manchester United after hal-

ftime and Remi Moses and Mark Hughes slipped through to score in the 52nd and 60th minutes. It was Hughes' debut in a full match.

West Ham jumped into third place in the first division after a hard-earned 1-1 home draw against Wolverhampton but they are seven points behind the runaway leaders. Scott McGarvey put Wolves ahead in the 22nd minute and Tony Cottee equalised eight minutes later.

Arsenal trounced Ipswich 4-1 at home — Paul Mariner and Brian Talbot scoring against their former club. Mariner was on target in the 38th and 56th minutes and Talbot scored in the 51st. Tony Woodcock added the fourth while Eric Gates hit a consolation goal for Ipswich.

A 54th minute penalty by Mark Reid gave holders Celtic a 1-0 aggregate triumph over Aberdeen in the semifinals of the Scottish League Cup.

Aberdeen almost took the tie into extra time in the eighth minute but Pat Bonner did well to stop a shot by John Hewitt.

Celtic face Glasgow rivals Rangers in the final at Hampden Park on March 25 for the second successive year.

Dundee and Rangers drew 2-2 and St. Mirren beat Morton 4-3 in the quarter-finals of the Scottish Cup.

An own goal by George McGeehan gave Rangers the lead after 12 minutes. Ian Ferguson levelled 10 minutes later but Rangers stepped up the pace and were rewarded when Robert Russell volleyed home in the 25th minute.

Witherspoon captures WBC crown

LAS VEGAS (R) — American Tim Witherspoon captured the vacant World Boxing Council (WBC) heavyweight championship Friday night and prompted his beaten compatriot Greg Page to announce his retirement.

A disgruntled Page declared the split decision was "bullshit". Witherspoon, who was the WBC's second-ranked contender behind Page, built up an early lead, faded during the middle rounds but finished strongly to take the title vacated by the undefeated Larry Holmes last year.

"I hit him hundreds of times," said Witherspoon who was also unhappy with the split decision.

"Page was holding me on the ropes. In the middle of the fight I told him to fight more. I figured he just got tired. He wasn't as tough as I expected."

Page commented: "He scored one or two punches. That's it. What about all the punches I scored? What's with the scoring? This could only happen in America. Is this America or Beirut?"

There were no knockdowns in the fight but Witherspoon's strength proved superior to the speed and agility of Page, who weighed in 194 pounds (8.5 kg) heavier than his opponent.

Two judges, Lou Tabat and Jerry Roth, had 26-year-old Witherspoon winning 117-111. But judge Chuck Minker made it a 114-114 draw.

Both Tabat and Roth had Witherspoon winning six of the last seven rounds. Tabat had Witherspoon taking the last four and Roth had him capturing the final three. Minker, who had Page leading after 10 rounds, gave Witherspoon the last two.

Afterwards Page, 25, said: "This is my retirement. I'm tired

of this bullshit."

Witherspoon made the running for the first seven rounds, piling constant pressure on Page and forcing him to back off.

In the eighth round the 6ft 3 ins (1.9 metre) Page at last showed some life as Witherspoon seemed to tire. Page hammered him with left-right combinations to the head over the next three rounds.

In the eleventh Witherspoon went back on the offensive and a flurry of blows in the final ten seconds left Page distinctly unsteady.

Witherspoon was making his second attempt at the title. He lost narrowly to Holmes in May.

The win gave Witherspoon a record of 19 wins against one defeat with 12 knockouts. Page's record slipped to 23-2 with 18 knockouts.

On the same bill Puerto Rico's Carlos DeLeon outclassed American Anthony Davis to retain his WBC cruiserweight title with a unanimous 12-round points win.

Davis, the number-two ranked challenger, had no answer to DeLeon's speedier footwork and more powerful punching.

The 24-year-old champion dropped Davis to one knee with a solid right to the head in the ninth round but failed to finish him off.

It was DeLeon's second successful title defence since regaining the crown last July. He now hopes to meet Witherspoon or the undisputed world light-heavyweight title-holder Michael Spinks.

New policies to be defined for football association

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Culture and Youth Abdullah 'Oweidat was quoted by Al Ra'i newspaper as saying he will define new policies for the Jordanian Football Association in the coming few days.

"There will be new plans to be announced after I finish a tour sports clubs around the country to study closely their different needs," the minister said. The Ministry of Culture and Youth is now drawing up plans and preparing studies aimed at promoting the association's activities in various regions, he added.

He said that part of the new plan is to organize championships in every governorate with the aim of selecting a national team from all governorates. The ministry does not complain of lack of funds and will definitely offer financial support to all active sports clubs and will close down clubs which do not have any activities, the minister concluded.

Cycling chief returns from Iraq visit

AMMAN (J.T.) — President of the Jordanian Cycling Federation Mohammad Hamdan returned to Amman from Baghdad Friday evening having made arrangements for the Jordanian cyclists training camp and after holding talks with the Iraqi Cycling Federation.

The talks resulted in agreement between the two federations on a number of points. These included the despatch of four Jordanian referees to attend in the international training course which will be held in Baghdad next June, organising a training course for Jordanian coaches in July, hosting Iraqi national cycling team in Jordan for holding a training camp in September and requesting that both federations apply for affiliation to the Asian Cycling Federation.

McEnroe reaches Belgian indoor tennis final

BRUSSELS (R) — John McEnroe crushed unseeded Thomas Hogstedt of Sweden 6-3, 6-1 in the Belgian Indoor Tennis Championship here Saturday to book a place in Sunday's final.

Afterwards the world's top-ranked player said: "I could be playing as well or better than I've ever played."

His form here adds considerable weight to that statement. He has dropped only 13 games in four matches this week and has not lost since December.

Hogstedt, who had to play three qualifying rounds before the championship proper began this week, said he had attempted to contain the American with rallies from the back of the court.

But his play soon came unstuck. McEnroe broke the Swede's service in the eighth game of the first set and then swept through the second, allowing Hogstedt only one point in the last three games.

"Hogstedt was a bit tired after all his matches here and I made him run around a lot," McEnroe said. McEnroe's likely opponent in the final is world number two Ivan Lendl. He meets fellow Czechoslovak Tomas Smid in the second semifinal.

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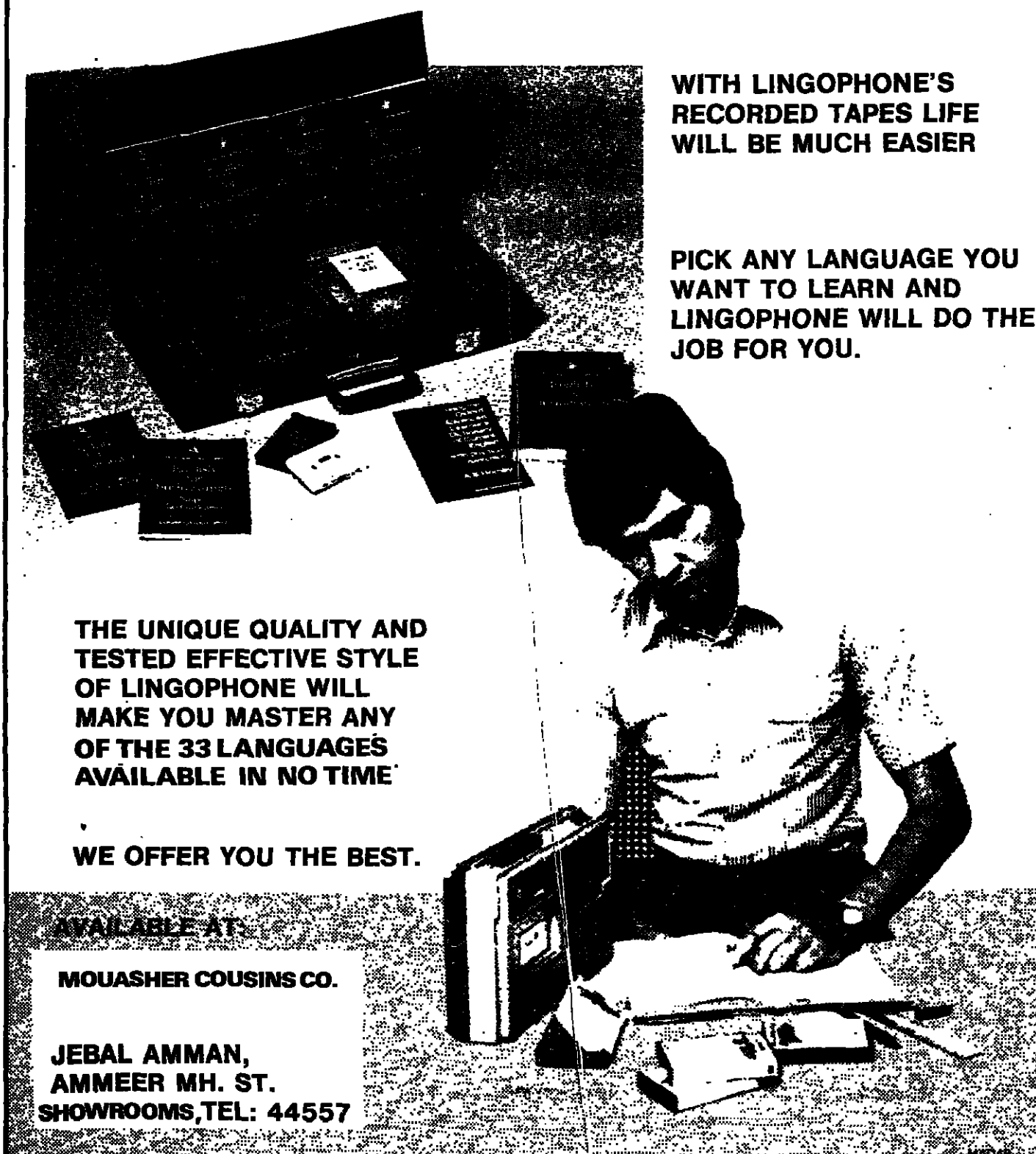
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MX missile, B-1 bomber under attack in Congress

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan's plans to build more MX intercontinental missiles and B-1 bombers are coming under renewed attack in Congress as members look for ways to cut his 1985 defence budget.

Military analysts told Reuters that a consensus was growing in Congress that President Reagan's \$305-billion military budget for 1985 must be trimmed sharply and that the target should be such costly new weapons rather than existing forces.

Some members of Congress, concerned about an expected federal budget deficit of \$185 billion next year, are ready to fight Mr. Reagan's proposal to build 40 more MX ballistic missiles and 34 of the B-1 bombers.

The administration plans to spend \$5 billion on MX missiles in 1985 and \$8.2 billion on B-1 bomber. The MX only narrowly won congressional backing last year.

Pentagon officials, acknowledging that there may be cuts, fear that some of the new equipment they say they need for armed forces modernisation may be axed in budget cuts that could reach \$20 billion.

"There is a good chance to cut production money for the MX," Representative Joseph Addabbo told reporters last week.

"The MX is the most vulnerable because we can make the best case for it not being needed," said Mr. Addabbo, chairman of the House of Representatives Defence Subcommittee.

Congressional opposition to the MX is focused on the fact that the 100 missiles ultimately to be built at a cost of \$20 billion will be deployed only as a stop-gap measure until the small, mobile "mid-range" missile becomes operational in the 1990s.

Opposition to the B-1 bomber is also based on the fact that the aircraft would be in service for only a few years until the so-called "stealth" strategic bomber capable of evading radar detection is deployed.

Mr. Addabbo told a press conference last week: "I think the B-1 will die of its own weight."

Normally when Congress has cut defence spending it has taken money from operations and maintenance for existing forces and left costly weapons programmes intact.

Such programmes mean contracts for arms makers and jobs for constituents and members are reluctant to cut them, especially in an election year. Cuts in aircraft flying hours, ship time at sea and military construction overseas are less painful.

As expected, defence officials testifying before Congress recently have contended that Mr. Reagan's budget strikes the right balance between buying new weapons to modernise the armed forces and providing funds for operation and maintenance.

Critics of defence spending, in Congress and in private research organisations, are increasingly saying, however, that the administration is committing too much money to too many expensive weapons.

They say that while initial spending for some of the newer weapons is small by Pentagon standards it will grow and force cuts in spending for combat readiness of existing forces later.



Chin Lee-Chong

Seoul rejects tripartite talks

SEOUL (R) — South Korea Saturday again rejected a North Korean proposal for tripartite talks with the United States and renewed a call for direct dialogue between the two sides.

Prime Minister Chin Lee-Chong called the Northern proposal "a deception aimed at covering up their terrorism," a reference to the Oct. 9 bomb attack in Rangoon which killed 17 South Koreans including four visiting cabinet ministers.

He repeated Seoul's position that national unification was basically a matter between the two parts of Korea, divided after World War II. He urged the North to agree to a meeting between the presidents or at least government ministers of the two sides.

Mr. Chin's statement was issued in response to a letter North Korean Prime Minister Kang Sung-san sent to him on Wednesday. It repeated the suggestion for talks between North and South Korea and the United States on the grounds that the stationing of 40,000 U.S. troops here was a main hindrance to unity.

The delivery of the letter at the border village of Panmunjom was the second direct contact between the two Koreas in three weeks, but official sources here said they did not expect any dramatic breakthrough in the search for dialogue.

Hart picks up Hollings' endorsement

NEW YORK (AP) — Senator Gary Hart, riding a national popularity surge reflected in two new polls, picked up the endorsement of former candidate Ernest Hollings as the contestants for the Democratic presidential nomination headed toward next week's crucial primary elections, attention on Saturday shifted temporarily to lightly populated Wyoming where Sen. Hart was favoured to outpoll former Vice President Walter Mondale in that state's 23 county caucus (or meetings).

Both hoped to use their first test in the west to build momentum for the upcoming round of primaries and caucuses on "super Tuesday." Voting in the Wyoming caucuses will help determine 12 of the state's 15 delegates to the national convention next July.

Mr. Hart said he was pleased "by the Hollings endorsement. The South Carolina senator said at

a news conference Friday that Sen. Hart has "not only the ability to win, but the capacity to govern."

"He brings a new sense of direction to a Democratic Party grown out of touch with too many voters," said Sen. Hollings, who pulled out of the race this week after poor showing in Iowa and New Hampshire.

Meanwhile, Mr. Mondale questioned Mr. Hart's appeal to young people. He told students at Emory University in Atlanta that "never has an age group been so intensely analyzed."

Two national polls on Friday showed Sen. Hart running ahead of Mr. Mondale in a matchup against President Reagan.

The Gallup Poll gave Sen. Hart 52 per cent support to Mr. Reagan's 43 per cent among the 719 registered voters surveyed March 2-6.

Likewise, a poll published by



Gary Hart

the nationally circulated newspaper USA Today showed Sen. Hart running better against Mr. Reagan than Mr. Mondale, although the incumbent president bested both Democrats in that one.

COLUMN

Policeman dies protecting travellers

BEIJING (R) — Chinese police officer Chen Ge was killed when he used his own body to protect a bus of people from the blast of a hoodlum's grenade. The People's Daily reported Saturday. The newspaper said the incident happened in the northeast city of Jilin last month when Chen and several colleagues were searching the bus for two violent criminals. Hu Xiaodong and Zhang Qi. Chen spotted the pair in the corner of the bus but Hu jumped up, snatched the grenade from his coat and pulled the pin. Sacrificing himself, Chen rushed at Hu and both were killed along with Zhang who was sitting beside his partner. One passenger was wounded.

Real life thriller develops backstage

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A real life "whodunnit?" developed backstage at an Agatha Christie murder mystery being presented at a Johannesburg Theatre. Police said they had charged a stagehand with attempted murder after poison was found in a kettle used by the cast during intervals. The stagehand was arrested 15 minutes before the murderer in Christie's play "the hollow" died of poisoning on stage. The show went on.

Bailiff arrested at Mondale rally

MOBILE, Alabama (R) — A court bailiff was arrested at a Walter Mondale campaign rally Friday night after secret service agents spotted a gun under his coat as he approached the former vice-president, witnesses said. They said 76-year-old Clarence Montgomery was taken away by the agents as he tried to shake Mr. Mondale's hand in a Mobile restaurant. The Democratic presidential hopeful had just given a speech to several hundred people. The witnesses said Montgomery, who works for a Mobile county court, was accompanied by Judge John Butler as he walked towards Mr. Mondale. Mr. Mondale left a few minutes after the incident. "I'm certain it's a mistake," Judge Butler said. "He certainly did not pull a gun."

Soviets honour Yuri Gagarin

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet Union on Friday honoured the late cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin, the first man in space, by issuing a postage stamp and holding a meeting at which the commander of the Soviet Air Force attacked the U.S. space programme. The official News Agency TASS said the stamp was put into circulation Friday, the 50th anniversary of Gagarin's birth. The stamp shows the cosmonaut, who died in a plane crash in 1968 against a background of a man in space and the Vostok spaceship in which Gagarin orbited earth 23 years ago. TASS said. Top Soviet military and space officials gathered in Moscow on Friday for a meeting to celebrate Gagarin's memory. TASS said. The news agency quoted the commander-in-chief of the air force, Air Marshal Pavel S. Kutakhov, as contrasting the "peaceful development of international cooperation" in space with "the militarisation of outer space" he said was sought by the United States.

Keys to 10 Downing Street stolen

LONDON (Agencies) — A set of keys to 10 Downing Street, official residence of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, has been stolen, officials said Friday. It was in a handbag stolen from Mrs. Thatcher's journalist daughter Carol as she sat drinking in a wine bar in London's Fleet Street Thursday. A spokesman for Mrs. Thatcher said: "There are no security implications either for the prime minister or for Number 10." The prime minister's home has "a round-the-clock police guard. Miss Thatcher, 30, was also believed to have lost keys to the Thatcher family home in Chelsea in southwest London, as well as cash, credit cards, a diary and letters.

London bomb blast injures 26

LONDON (Agencies) — Twenty-six people were injured in a London night club Saturday in one of a series of bomb blasts against Arab targets in the British capital.

Most of the 26-people injured when a bomb exploded in the basement of the Auberge Club were discharged from hospital after treatment for minor cuts and bruises. At least three people suffered burns in the club, which is popular with people from the Middle East, police said.

Earlier, a bomb exploded outside a shop selling Arabic newspapers in central London. It caused no injuries.

Bomb disposal experts also carried out controlled explosions on three others bombs, all in areas frequented by London's Arab community.

Police, who believe there is a link between the explosions, say no group immediately claimed responsibility.

Earlier this month police warned of possible attacks on Libyan exiles in London and police spokesman said this was one possible line of inquiry.

A police spokesman said one of the devices was placed along Palace Gate, a road leading to Kensington Palace, where Prince Charles and Princess Diana live. It was not immediately known if they were at home.

Three security cordons around London's major Islamic centres after receiving "solid intelligence" warning of attacks connected with the anniversary of the opening of Libya's People's Congress in Tripoli.

Police said more than 120 patrons, most of them Middle Easterners, were dancing and drinking when a bomb went off towards the rear of L'Auberge about 0415 GMT. Thick smoke and debris filled the room as patrons fled.

"People were lying wounded on the floor," said Ahmed Khalil, 36, who was treated for cuts to his abdomen.

A week ago, Scotland Yard threw security cordons around London's major Islamic centres after receiving "solid intelligence" warning of attacks connected with the anniversary of the opening of Libya's People's Congress in Tripoli.

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Twelve bodies found in sunken oil drilling ship

HOUSTON (R) — The bodies have been found of 12 of the 81 missing crew of the oil drilling ship Glomar Java Sea, which sank last October during a typhoon in the South China Sea, the ship's owner, Global Marine, said.

The Texas-based firm said the bodies, as yet unidentified, were found during operations to survey the sunken vessel.

Until now, none of the missing crewmen had been located, but there was speculation for weeks after the sinking that some of them may have reached the coast of Vietnam.

A company spokesman said surveying was expected to be completed in about one week, when the bodies would be taken to Hong Kong for possible identification.

The 600-tonne Glomar Java Sea sank in about 300 metres of water during typhoon Lex on Oct. 25, south of Hainan Island in the South China Sea.

The missing crew was composed of 37 Chinese, 35 Americans, four Britons, two Singaporeans, a Filipino, an Australian and a Canadian.

The ship was leased by Global Marine to a Chinese subsidiary of the Atlantic Richfield Company, which was searching for oil for the Chinese government.

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Anti-nuclear demonstrators clash with convoy guards

MUTLANGEN, West Germany (R) — Demonstrators trying to stop Pershing-2 missile convoys leaving the U.S. Army Base at Mutlangen clashed with escorting American soldiers Friday, police said.

They said a soldier was slightly injured while warding off a placard wielded by a demonstrator in the first such incident involving army personnel and anti-nuclear protesters since the Pershing-2 missiles began arriving in West Germany last year.

Police said the incident involved some 25 demonstrators who tried to block two convoys of 45 vehicles, including 18 missile transporters, which were leaving the Mutlangen Base.

A spokesman for the demonstrators said three protesters were slightly injured in the clash.

A military spokesman declined to say whether the transporters in the convoys carried Pershing-2's. NATO plans to station 108 of the missiles in West Germany.

But referring also to the earlier model Pershing-1's based at Mutlangen, he said "we have been moving Pershings in and out of the base without their whereabouts for 20 years."

The demonstrators said seven of their number were detained by police Friday, bringing the total to about 700 since anti-nuclear protesters started an intermittent blockade of the base's access roads last November.

A police spokesman said one person detained Friday had been held for the 13th time. Police usually release them after registering their identities for possible later legal action.

FBI demonstrates new 50-member rescue team

QUANTICO, Virginia (AP) — The FBI's (Federal Bureau of Investigation), new, 50-member hostage rescue team put on its first public demonstration Friday in an acknowledged effort to frighten terrorists away from the Olympic Games and the National political conventions later this year.

"The idea of this team waiting in the wings will provide a substantial deterrent to foreign terrorists contemplating staging an act at one of the special events in the United States this year," FBI Director William Webster told reporters invited to the demonstration at the FBI Academy here.

Mr. Webster stressed that the team was civilian, not military, and that its most important mission was "to save as many lives as possible."

He said he had authorised recruiting volunteers from the ranks of FBI special agents in early 1982 because U.S. officials had identified a gap in anti-terrorist planning.

Mr. Webster said the gap existed between special weapons and tactics, or Swat, teams of state or local authorities and the FBI, and use of military units like the Delta Team, which organised the unsuccessful effort in April 1980 to free U.S. hostages in Iran.

The FBI director noted that using military personnel in the continental United States would require presidential approval, and that local and FBI Swat teams were slow in being dispatched to

any hostage crisis in U.S. territory. The hostage team leader, Danney O. Coulson, said the team's sniper rifles were custom-manufactured to fit the personal specifications of each sniper of the team, and that its submachine guns were manufactured in West Germany.

Mr. Coulson said that in some training sessions, the targets shot back with live bullets.

The Olympic anti-terrorist squad has trained with other counter-terrorist teams in England, France, Netherlands, West Germany and Austria, he said, and some of the anti-terrorist teams in these countries came to the U.S. for training and consultation.

Among several demonstrations mounted Friday was one, conducted completely in the dark, in which an uncertain number of team members fired a dozen rounds of ammunition into two target figures stationed less than a yard away from Mr. Coulson and assistant FBI Director Oliver "Buck" Revell.

In another demonstration, six civilians, including one reporter, were placed in three rooms as make-believe hostages of nine terrorists represented by stationary targets. In a little more than two minutes, nine team members, clad entirely in black, diverted attention with a live explosive set off outside the installation, blew in one door, kicked in another, "killed" all of the terrorists and freed all of the hostages.

Soviets print Thatcher's letter on peace

MOSCOW (Agencies) — A letter from British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher that puts NATO's case on disarmament and peace was printed in full Saturday by the Soviet weekly Communist newspaper Komsomolskaya Pravda.

Her letter was a reply to cut-out peace notes that the paper published last December, urging youngsters to send them to NATO leaders in protest at the deployment of U.S. missiles in Europe. The notes said: "I vote for peace."

The British embassy circulated Mrs. Thatcher's reply on March 1 and asked the newspaper to print the letter, which said Britons shared Soviet fears about war and that NATO was a purely defensive alliance not threatening Moscow.

The newspaper printed the text and beneath it a longer reply from Valentina Tereshkova, the first woman in space and now head of the Soviet women's committee.

She told Mrs. Thatcher: "You write that you also vote for peace. Well, we would be happy to believe you. But, frankly speaking, a lot of what is happening in the higher echelons of the West hinders this."

Mrs. Thatcher had written that she voted for peace if this meant resuming the medium-range missile talks broken off last year.

The British prime minister also said: "A year ago we were faced by more than 1,000 warheads on Soviet medium-range rockets. And how many did we have? Not one."

In her reply, Ms. Tereshkova said: "I am no expert in this field, Mrs. Thatcher, but I do know the basics."

She said Britain and France between them had 162 medium-range missiles a year ago and they still existed.

Mrs. Thatcher is on a drive to improve Britain's relations with the Soviet Bloc as part of an overall effort to mend East-West relations and paid her first visit to Moscow as prime minister last month for the funeral of Mr. Yuri Andropov.

She apparently wrote her letter to Komsomolskaya Pravda after her return to London. A British diplomat who asked not to be identified by name said the letter was forwarded to the newspaper by the embassy with the request it be printed in full.

It apparently was — thus allowing young Soviets rare direct access to the arguments of a Western leader.

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Thatcher said to have rejected terms of response to Argentina over islands

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has vetoed latest proposals by her senior officials aimed at improving relations with Argentina following the Falklands (Malvinas) war, informed British sources said Friday.

The sources said Mrs. Thatcher went against other ministers in rejecting the terms of a proposed Foreign Office response to ideas put forward by Buenos Aires to mend the rift between the two countries.

They said the proposed response was apparently rejected by Mrs. Thatcher because it contained a hint of long-term negotiations on the future of the South Atlantic islands.

Mrs. Thatcher has consistently refused to discuss sovereignty of the islands, over which Britain fought a brief war with Argentina in 1982.

The sources said the proposed response was put to Mrs. Thatcher for approval last week and again this week. On the second occasion she reviewed it with other cabinet

ministers, a majority of whom supported the Foreign Office line, but the terms of the response were still rejected, they said.

The prime minister's office declined Friday night to say whether Thursday's regular weekly cabinet meeting included discussion of relations with Argentina.

Buenos Aires is awaiting a reply to its latest ideas on restoring relations which were put forward by the new Argentine government last month.

The Falklands war severed diplomatic, commercial and cultural ties between the two countries.

Argentina has called for negotiations without preconditions and without preconditions but it also insists that talks must include the 150-year-old sovereignty dispute.

The ideas put forward by Argentina were part of tentative moves to heal the two-year rift. They reached London as part of a formal response to earlier proposals put forward by the Thatcher government.

The original British proposals suggested the restoration of ties that existed before the fighting but they made no mention of any negotiation, now or in the future, on ownership of the islands.

The sources said Foreign Office diplomats, in an attempt to break the deadlock, may have tried to soften the British position in the terms of the response put to Mrs. Thatcher this week.

Diplomatic sources said that following Mrs. Thatcher's reported rejection of her officials' advice it was not clear how attempts to improve relations would proceed.

Argentine officials have said President Raul Alfonsín was anxious to defuse the Falklands dispute early in his term in order to stabilise democracy in the country.

A settlement could help Argentina reduce the size of its armed forces, which have persistently intervened in the country's political life during the past 50 years.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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FAITH MAKES DEFENSE EASY

Neither vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
♠ 953
♥ 103
♦ AKQ73
♣ Q54

WEST EAST
♠ KQ ♠ A76
♥ 52 ♥ 87
♦ 982 ♦ J10654
♣ AK9876 ♣ J102

SOUTH
♠ J10842
♥ AKQJ964
♦ Void
♣ 3

The bidding:
West North East South
2 ♣ Pass 3 ♣ 4 ♣
Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: King of ♣.

We are often asked: "Just how good a bridge player is Omar Sharif?" In an attempt to answer that question, about two years ago there appeared in France "Omar Sharif's Life in Bridge." Now there is an English edition, translated and adapted by Terence Reese. It deals not only with hands played by your columnist, but also by many of the famous players with whom he was associated. This hand is one of our favorites.

East and West were Pietro Forquet and Benito Garozzo.

Garozzo's two club opening bid was the equivalent of one club in normal methods, and the rest of the auction was natural.

West led a top club. East dutifully shifted. He led the king of spades and followed with the queen. Most commentators expected the contract to be made. It is most unusual for someone to jump to game in one major and have five cards in the unbid major, so they thought that Forquet would duck the second spade.

They reckoned without the prowess of the man who announced the birth of his son with an announcement reading: "The world's second-best bridge player is born!" Forquet overtook the queen with the ace and played a third spade, and Garozzo's ruff was the down trick.

How did Forquet know he should overtake the queen of spades? He simply trusted his partner to have made the right play at trick three!

Had West started with three or more spades to the king-queen, his correct play after winning the king of spades would have been to lead a low spade. When he did not do so, Forquet paid him the compliment of having defended correctly.